

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

# Weather by Mai Skier Time to Recor

The World's Daily Newspaper

# Herald Tribune

INTERNATIONAL



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TODAY  
REVIEW  
SECTION

No. 35,757

## China Airlines' Jet Crashes in Taipei, Killing 197 Aboard

**Taiwan Bank Governor Among Dead; 9 on Ground Die in Blazes Set by Airbus**

By Edward A. Gargan  
*New York Times Service*

International Ski Federation  
should be run on the same lines  
as government.

We do not accept what  
Yamaguchi defines "big." Now  
the airline rates has been raised  
for Monday and Tuesday as  
international, clear conditions  
are good.

It would be interesting to know  
what the airline rates has been raised  
for Monday and Tuesday as  
international, clear conditions  
are good.

Relatives of passengers who died in the crash of the China Airlines flight from the Indonesian resort of Bali comforting each other at the airport in Taipei on Monday.

HONG KONG — A China Airlines flight from the Indonesian resort of Bali crashed and burst into flames while trying to land in fog and rain Monday evening at Chiang Kai-shek International Airport in Taipei.

All 197 passengers and crew members were killed, including the governor of Taiwan's central bank.

Nine more people, including a 2-month-old baby, were killed on the ground, according to the official Central News Agency.

The central bank governor, Shiu Yuan-dong, was returning from a meeting of regional finance and banking officials with his wife, Huang Mian, and three other central bank officials. They included Chen Huang, head of the bank's department of foreign exchange, and Chien Chi-min, head of the department of economic research.

See CRASH, Page 4



Relatives of passengers who died in the crash of the China Airlines flight from the Indonesian resort of Bali comforting each other at the airport in Taipei on Monday.

## Indonesia Edges Toward a Showdown With IMF

By Michael Richardson  
*International Herald Tribune*

SINGAPORE — A confrontation between Indonesia and its main creditors moved closer Monday as Indonesian officials said the government would press ahead with a plan aimed at stabilizing its currency despite opposition to its strategy from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United States and the European Union.

At the same time, B.J. Habibie, Indonesia's research and technology minister, and an official that the IMF and financial markets regard as a devotee of high-cost national projects, strengthened his position as the country's likely next vice president

and potential successor to President Suharto.

Both moves unnerved East Asian markets. Currencies and stock prices fell across the region amid growing anxiety about the crisis in Indonesia, where

Indonesians maintain faith in military. • The police warn they will shoot rioters. Page 4.

sporadic looting continued in towns along the north coast of the main island of Java after days of rioting over rising food prices and attacks on shops owned by the ethnic Chinese minority.

Analysts said Mr. Suharto was evidently determined to get control over the rupiah and to get trade

moving again by establishing a currency-board system that would give the currency a fixed exchange rate — probably against the dollar — and by having Mr. Habibie as his vice president.

The IMF and other critics fear that if a currency board is set up prematurely, a rupiah peg may not be sustainable because of Indonesia's shrinking foreign reserves, its deeply troubled banks and a lack of strong monetary discipline. Reserves stand at \$17 billion, while foreign debt is close to \$140 billion.

European Union finance ministers, meanwhile, joined in a growing chorus of opposition to the plan (Page 11).

See INDONESIA, Page 15



Mr. Clinton: rarely by himself, always alone.

## A Lonely Man in Midst of Friends

In Crisis, Clinton Loses the Personal Contact He Thrives On

By David Maraniss  
*Washington Post Service*

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton, as he struggles to survive the most serious crisis of his career, has become a study in presidential loneliness.

His life was built on two things — words and friends — that suddenly seem of less use to him. In public, he has offered up few words to explain the mess he is in, and in private almost none of his legendary legion of friends is willing or able to hear him say much more. The president who once chafed at the commandments of his job by calling the White House "the crown jewel in the American penal system" is now confronted by the prisoner's paradox: an existence in which he is rarely by himself and yet always alone.

Mr. Clinton's aversion to being alone has been a defining trait of his life. During these last few perilous weeks, he has engaged in his customary pursuit of crowds and reassurance. He brings friends in for popcorn and a movie. He dances past midnight with celebrities at a state dinner. He lingers wistfully at a midday farewell party for a longtime aide. He rallies with Democratic troops on Capitol Hill. He heads to

the heartland to touch hands along the rope line. He sifts through stacks of supportive letters and dissects internal polls indicating the public is with him.

But something is different in these last weeks since the allegations of presidential sex and perjury broke, according to interviews with friends, aides and associates from all parts of Mr. Clinton's life.

All presidents operate in a bubble of agents and aides, but the distance that inevitably separates even this most gregarious of presidents from the rest of humanity has become greater, his sense of isolation more noticeable. He spent a lifetime using his empathy and charisma to turn strangers into friends, accumulating them by the thousands, remembering their individual histories, memorizing their phone numbers and their parents' names.

"He is president because of all that," said David Mixner, who befriended Mr. Clinton during the 1960s anti-war movement. But now, said another disheartened pal whose friendship extends back a similar length, their friend the president has become "a stranger in a strange land."

See CLINTON, Page 6

## South Korea Scrambles To Create a Safety Net

Layoffs Loom for Nation Used to Lifetime Jobs

By Mary Jordan  
*Washington Post Service*

SEOUL — In the dark months ahead for South Korea, a million or more people are expected to lose their jobs because of the national economic retraction, and when they do, there is virtually no social welfare safety net to catch them.

South Korea now finds itself in a similar position to that of the United States during the Great Depression, in need of a New Deal. A package of government benefits to aid the displaced.

For now, the growing number of jobless are relying on savings and help from relatives. For some, annual incomes of \$50,000 or more have dropped to zero overnight, with not a penny of help from the government. The economic crisis, and the tough fiscal reforms, including layoffs, dictated by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for the \$58 billion emergency lifeline it has tossed South Korea, are forcing a fundamental shift in the role government plays in helping the unemployed.

The "Asian way" had always been for governments to subsidize companies to keep people on the payroll even when they were not needed, rather than providing unemployment benefits directly to workers. Most people here now agree that companies can no longer survive under this system: layoffs are coming throughout East Asia, and governments from Tokyo to Jakarta are trying to figure out how they should respond.

Masayuki Nakai, a senior official in Japan's Labor Ministry, said the old logic is that it is the company's responsibility to educate, train and employ workers for life, giving way to the notion that this is the employee's responsibility. The Japanese government is now discussing how to establish retraining programs for laid-off workers, but there is great resistance to such programs among people who feel this is a step toward what they believe the United States or Western Europe have become — countries that have gone overboard in handing out food stamps and welfare checks.

"We think it is important to develop a person's ability and not let them indulge in unemployment insurance," Mr. Nakai said. "For example, we once heard that in Europe there is a term, 'unemployed aristocrat.' That is not good for the person or the government."

In South Korea the new government that is to take office Feb. 25 with the inauguration of President-elect Kim Dae Jung has set as a priority the creation of programs to provide benefits

## AGENDA

### Britain Wants Sinn Fein Barred

Britain called Monday for Sinn Fein to be expelled from the Northern Ireland peace talks because of two killings linked to the party's allies in the Irish Republican Army.

The police have accused the IRA of violating its cease-fire — the condition for Sinn Fein's participation in negotiations on Northern Ireland's future — by killing a drug dealer and a Protestant militant last week.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, had angrily predicted that Britain would force his party out of the talks. Page 5.

### Tough Choices At Indian Polls

Indians massed at polling places Monday for the start of the nation's most competitive election since independence in 1947. They face a choice among a declining Congress (I) Party, the emergent Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and a coalition of 14 parties formed after the 1996 election to keep the nationalists out of power. Page 2.

### PAGE TWO

#### High Tide for Hindu Nationalism

THE AMERICAS Page 3.

Puerto Rico: Gateway for Drugs

Books Page 9.

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Sports Pages 18-21.

## The 'Herminator' Bounces Back in Triumph

After Spectacular Crash, Austrian Takes Super-G

By Christopher Clarey  
*New York Times Service*

HAKUBA, Japan — Only 72 hours after Hermann Maier, of Austria, turned himself into a human projectile in the men's downhill and went crashing through two safety fences, he calmly resumed doing what he has been doing since November: dominating.

His gold medal in Monday morning's super-G was his fifth victory in five super-G races this season, and although it did not come by his typically crushing margin of more than a second, it came by more than enough to give the former bricklayer from Flachau, Austria, a piece of Olympic history.

His winning time of 1 minute, 34.82 seconds was more than a half-second better than that of the co-silver medalists, Didier Cuche of Switzerland and Hans Kraus of Austria.

"We will know what kind of skier Hermann Maier really is after he falls," Karl Schranz, the former world champion, had said last month.

Now, we know. Or at least we have a very good idea.

"After my fall, I was afraid the Olympics wasn't made for me because the Olympics has its own rules," Maier said. "In the Olympics, everybody tries to give more than they have. I gave less than I had Monday, but it was enough."

The only person who looked more relieved than the "Herminator" was his girlfriend, Petra Wechselberger, who watched in the finish area with other members of Maier's Flachau-based fan club on that rarity in the Japanese Alps: a day that was clear enough for a ski race.

"Maybe he really is an alien; I don't know," Wechselberger said.

Like millions of people around the



Hermann Maier taking flight Monday on the Olympic super-G course.

• Stumbling Americans face an in-doubt Czech goalie. Page 17.

• Seizing first downhill racer to repeat as Olympic champ. Page 18.

• Controversial ice dancers Grishuk and Platov win second gold. Page 19.

world, Wechselberger was watching a television screen Friday when Maier lost control in the downhill between the seventh and eighth turns and went hurtling wildly into space, landing on his helmet at high speed. The screen she was watching was in the finish area.

"I thought everything would be broken," she said. "I didn't see him land, because I had to turn away. I got so scared. I've never seen anything like that in my whole life."

Nor had a lot of people. "I'd give that a 9.5 or 10," said the American racer Chad Fleischer, using the gymnastics scoring method.

But Maier, a man who likes to free climb without ropes and race motorcycles, is clearly a rugged customer.

Although he ended up withdrawing from the combined downhill the same day, he skied down the hill under his own power with nothing more than a lightly sprained knee and a sore sternum and left shoulder.

He had been unlucky and so very lucky at the same time, and when the weather

See MAIER, Page 18

Newsstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD Malta
Cyprus	55 c
Denmark	14.00 DKR Oman
Finland	12.00 FM Qatar
Gibraltar	£ 0.85 Rep. Ireland, IR 2.00
Great Britain	£ 2.50 S. Africa
Egypt	R 12.50 JD U.A.E.
Jordan	1.250 JD U.S. M.L. (EUR)
Kuwait	K. SH. 160 U.S. M.L. (EUR)
Kenya	700 Fls Zimbabwe
Zimbabwe	Zm. \$40.00

O 3

See KOREA, Page 15

**Muslims Are Worried / Sonia Gandhi Could Be Spoiler****Hindu Nationalism Gains Momentum as Indians Vote**By John F. Burns  
New York Times Service

**N**AGPUR, India — When Atal Bihari Vajpayee looked out across the 150,000 people who gathered here for one of the climactic speeches of the country's election campaign, he seemed for a moment to choke, as though gulping a victory at the polls that he and other veterans of India's Hindu nationalist movement thought for years they might never see.

"We are coming!" Mr. Vajpayee said, to cries of "Victory for Mother India!" from a crowd stretching far into the smoggy winter night.

"This time, we will have a parliamentary majority, and we will give new life to India," Mr. Vajpayee said. "After more than 50 years of independence, the days of our national humiliation will be over, and India will fulfill the potential squandered by years of corruption and inefficiency."

With 600 million voters casting ballots Monday in the first of four rounds of polling across India ending March 7, all major opinion polls are forecasting the strongest-ever showing by the Bharatiya Janata Party, or Indian People's Party, with Mr. Vajpayee, 71, as its candidate for prime minister. Many Indians have concluded that the party will do well enough to form a government, or at least to head a governing coalition.

The prospect is profoundly disturbing to many of the country's 120 million Muslims, and to other Indians who reject Hindu nationalism as a fair basis for governing this vast country, with its mosaic of faiths. The anxieties have grown as the voting has approached, with troops moved into position and curfews in some areas to guard against the risk of election violence.

Polls have predicted that the Bharatiya Janata Party will combine with allied groups to win at least 210 to 230 seats in the 545-seat lower house of Parliament, against at least 165 seats for the resurgent Congress (I) Party led by Sonia Gandhi, the Italian-born widow of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi who has been pitting her soaring personal popularity against her party's reputation for corruption. Polls have predicted about 120 seats for a third major force, the center-left alliance known as the United Front.

A Bharatiya Janata victory, or a result that brought it close enough to be able to build a majority, would be a historic watershed for India. For all but 13 days in 1996, when Mr. Vajpayee formed a minority Bharatiya Janata government that collapsed for lack of parliamentary support, India as an independent nation has been governed by "secular" parties — groups whose vision of India is of a country composed of innumerable religious, ethnic and language groups, requiring for cohesion a government that rules impartially.

For all its efforts in the current election to present a more harmonious image, the Bharatiya Janata Party is the political standard-bearer for another ideal — that of Bharat, the Hindu motherland that party hard-liners say can only be true to itself if it gives primacy to a concept known as Hindutva. While even party adherents find it hard to define this semimystical ideal, what it means in practice, at least among the hard-liners, is that a Bharatiya Janata government would give preeminence to Hindus and to Hindu culture.

For the Congress Party leaders who have dominated Indian politics for most of this century — from the independence leader Mohandas Gandhi to Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister, to Indira Gandhi, Mr. Nehru's daughter, and Rajiv Gandhi, his grandson, all Hindus — the concept of Hindu primacy has been anathema. Their reasoning has been that while India has a large Hindu majority — 700 million in the population of 980 million — it also has large minorities, primarily the Muslims, who trace their origins in India back more than 1,000 years.

Now, with power almost within grasp, the Bharatiya Janata Party confronts what many of its opponents see as an exquisite irony. If the party is to be denied power, it will be by Sonia Gandhi, who is not Hindu but a practicing Roman Catholic, and not even Indian by birth.

Born near Turin in northern Italy, Mrs. Gandhi, 51, made her first acquaintance with India when she met Rajiv Gandhi in England in the 1960s, a time when, she has acknowledged, she thought of India mainly as a country of "snakes, elephants and jungles." She became an Indian citizen in 1984, after her husband became prime minister.

Alarmed by the crowds Mrs. Gandhi has been drawing across India, the Bharatiya Janata leadership has resorted to derisive jibes, accusing her of planning to impose a "Rome Raj," implying that her Catholicism will make her an agent of the Vatican. But other Indians have spoken of Mrs. Gandhi's popularity — and the possibility that she might become prime minister in the wake of a Congress election victory — as proof of the tolerant tradition of Hinduism that they say the Bharatiya Janata Party, or at least its hardliners, have rejected.

The problem Mrs. Gandhi presents for the Bharatiya Janata Party was evident at Mr. Vajpayee's rallies in the Nagpur region, 500 miles (800 kilometers) south of New Delhi. Mr. Vajpayee spoke cautiously of his main opponent, and then always as "Sonia," as she is universally known in India. In place of the personal put-downs favored by Lal Krishna Advani, the party's hard-line president, Mr. Vajpayee gently questioned Mrs. Gandhi's ability to perform miracles.

Even Bharatiya Janata supporters seemed offended by Mr. Advani's references to Mrs. Gandhi as "a foreigner" and "a housewife."



Agence France Presse

"No, no, nothing like that," said Savita Ramchandra Deshpande, a 50-year-old woman at the Wardha rally. "We don't have any problem with Sonia. We respect her. We respect her family. Our problem is with the Congress Party, and what it has failed to do for India."

**T**HE DISTINCTION between the Hindu nationalist and secularist concepts of India have become blurred in recent years, with some Congress Party figures slipping into the language of nationalism in a bid to halt the party's slide, and the Bharatiya Janata Party moderating its message in an attempt to attract voters who shunned the party in the past.

Still, few Indians have forgotten two moments when the divide between the visions became tragically enshrined in the country's history.

The first came on Jan. 30, 1948, when Gandhi was shot to death by a Hindu nationalist in New Delhi. The assassin, Nathuram Godse, said at his trial that he had acted to punish Gandhi for betraying Hindus with his "pro-Muslim" beliefs — Mr. Godse's interpretation of Gandhi's secularist philosophy in which he preached that people of all faiths should be treated equally.

For the Bharatiya Janata Party, founded in the early 1980s to take over from earlier, failed Hindu nationalist parties, Gandhi's assassination has been a spectral presence. By itself, it has been enough to deter many Indians from voting for the party, long years after they began to be disillusioned by the Congress Party.

More recently, the party has had to live down the events of Dec. 6, 1992, when a Hindu nationalist mob, urged on by party officials led by Mr. Advani, destroyed a 16th-century mosque at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state, claiming the mosque was built on the birthplace of the Hindu deity Ram. At least 13 Muslims were killed.

To broaden its appeal, the party has campaigned this time in what critics have called a "schizophrenic" mode, with Mr. Vajpayee avoiding the party's Hindu nationalist agenda altogether, while Mr. Advani, the party's dominant figure, has hewed to the nationalist creed. While the party's election manifesto, drafted by Mr. Advani, promised that a Bharatiya Janata government would build a Hindu temple on the Ayodhya site, Mr. Vajpayee, who described the 1992 mosque razing as a "mistake," has promised voters that it will not be repeated.

Similar contradictions have emerged over two other party manifesto commitments — a pledge to introduce a uniform civil code across India, eliminating the separate laws for Muslims in matters of marriage, divorce and inheritance; and an undertaking to strike from the constitution a clause enshrining a special status for Jammu and Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

Even Mr. Advani has hedged on these commitments, saying a Bharatiya Janata government would need parliamentary allies, and that it would negotiate with them over all the party's pledges, including those affecting Muslims.

**West Africans Urged to Quell Junta Forces in Sierra Leone**

Reuters

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — The local authorities in Sierra Leone's biggest diamond town, Koidu, have called on West African troops to prevent a bloodbath as troops loyal to the ousted junta fought with residents, refugees said Monday.

The Nigerian-led peacekeeping force known as Ecomog has taken control of the capital, Freetown, but battles continue elsewhere between junta loyalists and opponents.

Lebanese refugees who have fled to Conakry, capital of neighboring Guinea, said relatives in Koidu in the east of the country had told them by radio that junta forces were looting and fighting what they called "local vigilante groups."

"Traditional authorities in the town told us on the radio that they are appealing to Ecomog to intervene in the town to prevent a bloodbath," a Lebanese man said.

A militia that has been fighting the junta ever since its military coup last May seized the eastern towns of Bo and Kenema from pro-junta soldiers on Sunday, BBC radio said. Several junta soldiers and sympathizers were killed or tried on the spot and handed over to anti-junta youths for execution, a BBC correspondent in Bo said.

"Over 10,000 well armed Kamajors militiamen entered Bo town from three points, singing war songs and looking for soldiers of the ousted junta," the BBC correspondent said. The Kamajors were welcomed by jubilant civilians.

Eight armed soldiers of the ousted army were caught and handed over for execution, the correspondent said. Houses belonging to people suspected of financing the junta were set on fire.

There was comparative calm in Freetown on Monday as soldiers of the West African force and the Sierra Leone police manned road blocks and checked all vehicles for arms and ammunition. Some residents of Goderich Village in the west of Freetown were forced to flee their homes before dawn Sunday to seek shelter nearer the city center, they said. "They are cutting people's hands and burning houses," said a hotel manager, passing on the accounts of fleeing residents.

Goderich villagers said the attackers were from the Revolutionary United Front, a group that had rebelled against the elected government before the May 25 coup and joined forces with the army officers who toppled president Ahmad Tejan Kabbah. Nigerian troops later moved into Goderich and restored calm to the area, residents said.

Most businesses in the capital remained shut because owners were afraid of looters. The West African force has said that looters would be shot on sight.

A boat due to bring World Food Program aid to Freetown was still being loaded in Monrovia, Liberia, on Monday and might not arrive by Wednesday as planned, aid officials said.

The commander of the West African force, General Timothy Shepilu, a Nigerian, vowed to pursue the junta leaders. The junta's second-in-command, Victor King, and 24 other officials were arrested Friday after their two helicopter gunships were intercepted by a Nigerian jet and forced to land in Monrovia.

About 15 other junta officials were apprehended in Conakry, where President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, the democratically elected chief of state, now lives in exile.

**Tough Choices in an Unusually Competitive Race**By Kenneth J. Cooper  
Washington Post Service

**P**ATNA, India — Millions of Indians massed at polling places Monday to participate in the nation's most competitive election since independence in 1947 and the second parliamentary vote in the world's largest democracy in less than two years.

The last published opinion polls indicated an indecisive result leading to another coalition government once ballots are counted in the first week of March for all but a few of the 545 seats in Parliament.

Preliminary reports said at least 17 people were killed Monday and voter turnout dipped below the historical average of 60 percent during the election's first phase, with 40 percent of Parliament at stake.

The mid-term vote, India's 600 million eligible voters face a choice among a long-ruling but now declining Congress (I) Party, the emergent Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party and a coalition of 14 centrist, leftist and regional parties formed after the 1996 election to keep the

Hindu nationalists out of power. In 11 previous elections, no more than two blocs competed at the national level.

The collapse in November of the coalition government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi forced an election three years ahead of schedule. It was the second Second Front government to fall since June 1996, both times because the Congress Party withdrew its support.

Voters have appeared torn between a wish for an honest, stable government and a fear of communal tensions if their third option, the Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest in the last Parliament, is given a clear mandate.

That central conflict could be heard in the voices of anxious voters here in the drab provincial capital of eastern Bihar state, where the Bharatiya Janata Party is likely to make its largest gains because of divisions in the political opposition.

In Bihar state, politics have been dominated in recent years by former Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, who was jailed last year on corruption charges and kicked out of the Janata Dal,

Mr. Gujral's left-leaning party. But Mr. Yadav rebounded by inserting his wife as chief minister, winning his release on bail and forming a new party.

Mandrika Singh Yadav, a farmer, said he had remained loyal to his landholding Yadav caste and voted for the Bharatiya Janata Party candidate in the rural fringes of Pama where winter crops of potatoes and onions were being harvested in the morning sun. "We have stayed poor for so long, so I want a change," Mr. Yadav said. "People are saying Laloo is a thief. When we know about it, how can I vote for him?"

Despite the corruption charges, Raza Imam, 77, described himself as a loyal supporter of Laloo Prasad Yadav and said he voted for the new party because its leader has helped protect the Muslim minority, who make up about 12 percent of India's 950 million people.

So far, nearly 100 people have been killed during the election campaign. Most notably, scores of people died over the weekend when more than a dozen bombs were detonated in Comptore, a city of 1 million in southern Tamil Nadu state.

**Checkpoint Charlie Marker Is Stolen**

The Associated Press

**B**ERLIN — A sign that marked the border crossing from West to East Berlin, one of the most famous Cold War symbols, has been stolen from outside the Checkpoint Charlie museum in Berlin.

The wooden sign, about 2 meters (7 feet) square, warns: "You Are Leaving the American Sector" in four languages. It disappeared Feb. 5, but officials at the House at Checkpoint Charlie waited to report it missing, hoping it would be returned, the museum's director, Rainer Hildebrandt, said Monday.

The sign was hanging by a former watchtower at what used to be the Berlin Wall crossing point named Checkpoint Charlie in central Berlin.

**TRAVEL UPDATE****A New London-Brussels Route**

**B**RUSSELS (Reuters) — The no-frills airline Virgin Express and the Belgian carrier Sabena are planning a code-sharing deal for flights between London's Stansted airport and Brussels, a Sabena spokesman said Monday.

"Negotiations are already at a well-advanced stage," Eric Plateau said. "It could be just a matter of weeks." Virgin Express and Sabena already share codes for flights between Brussels and London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Rome and Barcelona.

**Relief Flights Open to Burundi**

**N**AIROBI — Kenya Airways on Tuesday will begin weekly relief and diplomatic carrier flights to Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, despite an embargo on the embattled central African country.

"Kenya Airways has agreed to re-establish a humanitarian diplomatic air bridge between Nairobi and Bujumbura," a source at the UN humanitarian affairs coordination office in the Kenyan capital.

**Robbers in Kenya Kill U.K. Tourist**

The Associated Press

**N**AIROBI — A British tourist visiting a Kenyan game park was stabbed to death by suspected robbers, the British High Commission said Monday.

The tourist, Roy Chivers, 58, was stabbed Sunday outside Aberdare Country Club, 225 kilometers (140 miles) north of Nairobi. His wife, Sandra, was with him, but was not hurt.

**WEATHER**

Forecast for Wednesday through Friday, as provided by AccuWeather.



Maps, forecasts and data provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 1998 - http://www.accuweather.com

North America

Today: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Wednesday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Thursday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Friday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Saturday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Sunday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Monday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Tuesday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Wednesday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Thursday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Friday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Saturday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Sunday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Monday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Tuesday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Wednesday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

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Saturday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Sunday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

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Friday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Saturday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

Sunday: High: Low: Wind: Humidity: Precipitation:

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# West African Urged to Quit Junta Forces Sierra Leone

**Reuters**  
FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Local authorities in Sierra Leone's diamond town, Koidu, called on West African troops to end a blockade as troops loyal to the junta fought with residents said Monday.

The Nigerian-led peacekeeping force has taken over the capital, Freetown, but faces fierce opposition between junta and opponents.

Local refugees who have fled relatives in Koidu in the country had told them by radio they called "local vigilante groups" told us on the radio that the junta is heading to Freetown to intervene.

Traditional authorities told us on the radio that the junta is heading to Freetown to intervene.

A mutiny that has been going on since its military May served the eastern towns of Kenema from January to last day, BBC radio said. Several soldiers and commanders were killed on the spot and handover youths for execution, a BBC correspondent said.

Over 10,000 well armed soldiers marched through Bo town for soldiers singing war songs and for soldiers of the ousted president.

Eight hundred soldiers of the army were caught and handed over to the junta.

Local radio stations in the city centre told us on the radio that the junta is heading to Freetown to intervene.

There was no immediate update on the situation.

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## Traffickers Flood Puerto Rico With Drugs

By Douglas Farah and Serge F. Kovaleski  
*Washington Post Service*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A shift in tactics by cocaine and heroin traffickers has made this island territory the most important way station of a burgeoning smuggling route through the Caribbean, law enforcement officials and experts on the drug trade say.

Colombian drug rings, which produce virtually all of the world's cocaine and an increasing amount of their heroin, have shipped most of their U.S.-bound drugs through Mexico in recent years. While that remains the dominant route, stepped-up interdiction efforts at the U.S.-Mexico border — plus the ever-increasing demands of Mexican traffickers — has led the Colombians to diversify by putting

Washington or New York or Chicago a mere formality.

"Once the drugs are in Puerto Rico, they might as well be in Kansas," said Felix Jimenez, special agent in charge of the Caribbean for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. "There are 72 flights a day from here to the mainland, and San Juan is the busiest port in the Caribbean and the fourth-busiest in the United States. You can put coke on a plane here and have it in Los Angeles in less than 24 hours."

The UN Drug Control Program, in a report to a regional conference held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in December, estimated that 25 tons of cocaine destined for the U.S. market, or about 40 percent of the total, passed through the Caribbean. This is a significant increase over estimates a year ago that about 30 percent of the cocaine reaching the United States passed through the Caribbean.

In addition, law enforcement officials said, almost all the growing flow of Colombian heroin passes through Puerto Rico on its way to the lucrative markets of the eastern seaboard of the United States.

The illicit flow of cocaine and heroin has brought with it a sharp increase in crime and drug abuse, with National Guardsmen at times patrolling the most drug-infested housing projects here and police sealing off whole neighborhoods for drug sweeps. The drug trade, Governor Pedro Rossello said in a recent interview, "is the biggest threat that we have to the existence of our society as we know it."

Mr. Rossello said drug trafficking had "wreaked havoc on Puerto Rico" and was his administration's top priority.

"It has poisoned our youth and injured our

capability for the future," he said. "All we want to do is raise the resistance so that the traffic will be shifted elsewhere."

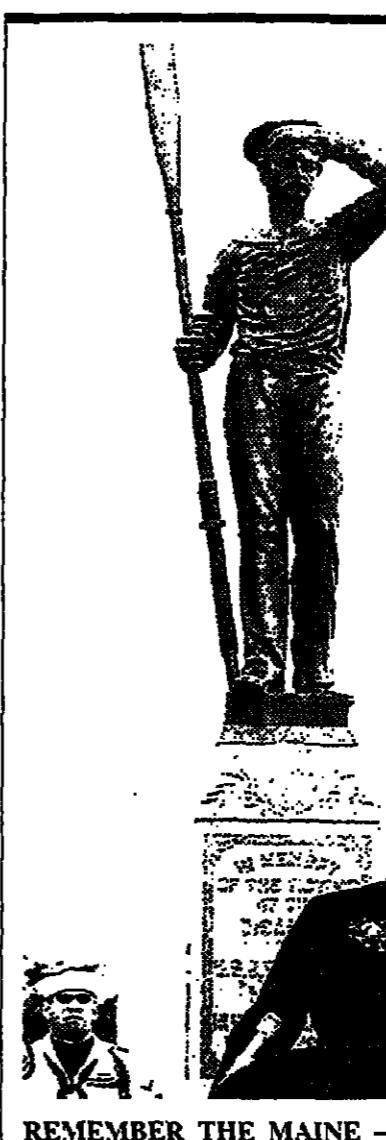
Mr. Rossello is not alone in his lament. Throughout the Caribbean, the authorities say, drug trafficking has brought social, political and economic problems that threaten to overwhelm often fragile governments.

For example, in the Dominican Republic — the home of the major new Caribbean traffickers — officials estimate that of a population of 8 million, at least a half-million Dominicans used cocaine or marijuana last year. Officials estimate that as much as \$1 billion in illegal drug profits was laundered through the nation's financial system last year. Of 10,000 drug cases in the past seven years, fewer than 100 have resulted in prison sentences.

Pino Arlacchi, undersecretary-general for drugs and crime at the United Nations, said at the Santo Domingo conference that the Caribbean was being swept up in a global trend in which "vast sums of illicitly acquired monies allow drug criminals to gain political and economic power and corrupt democratic institutions."

"The sad reality is that drug trafficking and abuse, as well as the legitimization of the proceeds of criminal activity, are negatively affecting the Caribbean in terms of health, corruption, internal security, violence, economic development and the integrity of financial institutions," Mr. Arlacchi said. "The corruption that exists in parts of the region helps drug criminals to damage the Caribbean social fabric. We must avoid letting traffickers deepen their roots."

"Poverty and the drug trade are related," he added. "Fragile and distorted economies, poor governments and corruption are the inevitable consequences of criminal activities."



REMEMBER THE MAINE — William Cassidy, assistant secretary of the U.S. Navy, speaking at a ceremony in Key West, Florida, commemorating the sinking of the battleship 100 years ago off of Cuba.

### POLITICAL NOTES

#### A Very Good Governor

ATLANTA — The joke making the rounds under Georgia's gold dome these days is that Governor Zell Miller has achieved an extraordinary approval rating of 77 percent, and that he has somehow managed to do so without being accused of having sex with an intern.

Instead, Mr. Specter said, Attorney General Janet Reno should have asked for a new independent counsel to investigate whether Mr. Clinton had tried to obstruct justice, in a sexual-harassment suit brought against the president by Paula Jones, by urging Ms. Lewinsky to lie under oath about having had an affair.

In his eighth scandal-free year in office, the 65-year-old Democrat has received the highest approval ratings of his tenure, in a Georgia State University poll released this month. His ratings, which have risen gradually and consistently throughout his two terms, hardly varied by gender, race, age, income or political party.

Mr. Miller is prohibited from running for a third consecutive term, and he has rejected entreaties to run for the U.S. Senate against Senator Paul Coverdale, choosing instead to return to his earlier calling as a college professor.

Until now, Republicans have steadfastly defended Mr. Starr's actions, but Mr. Specter's comments indicated that at least some Republican leaders have begun to conclude that he has become too much of a lightning rod.

If Mr. Starr is seen as too partisan, as polls indicate, it will be more difficult for Congress to pursue impeachment proceedings based on his investigation.

## ASIA/PACIFIC

# Amid the Turmoil, Indonesians Keep Faith in the Military

By Seth Mydans

New York Times Service

JAKARTA — As buildings burned and soldiers chased down rioters here in the capital 18 months ago, several hundred excited college students debated whether to join the melee. What they did next might have happened only in Indonesia: They raised a cheer for the troops.

Those riots erupted after the police and military forces stormed the headquarters of the opposition Indonesian Democratic Party to end its occupation by supporters of Megawati Sukarnoputri, the party's leaders.

This past week, as tensions stemming from the Asian financial crisis rose, a leading editor lowered his voice as he said things about the government that he would never dare to print. But there was nothing secret about what he said next: The arm of government he respects the most is the military.

## Police Warn They'll Shoot In Price Riots

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

JAKARTA — As sporadic looting and protests against price increases continued, Indonesian police warned Monday they would shoot rioters who posed a danger to others.

"This is right shoot on sight," a police spokesman, Soetrisno, was quoted by the official Antara news agency as saying from the East Java capital of Surabaya.

Five people have died in the riots, which have been set off by rising prices of basic commodities, with ethnic Chinese shop owners bearing the brunt of popular anger.

Mr. Soetrisno, commenting on reports that crime and riots could increase with the firing of hundreds of thousands of workers, said the police had not found any link between crime and unemployment.

"But then again, the calm may only be on the surface," he said. "There may be underground movements which we should be aware of."

Despite the shoot-on-sight warning from the police and warnings from the military that it would act against those who threatened stability, thousands of people took to the streets in South Sumatra and West Java on Monday, the police said.

In Pagar Alam, a remote town on the island of Sumatra, about 450 kilometers (300 miles) northwest of Jakarta, hundreds of youth and school children damaged three Chinese-owned shops.

In Pengalengan, 176 kilometers east of the capital, a mob of 500 ransacked Chinese stores and threw stones. There were no reports of injuries from the two attacks.

Chinese merchants dominate the country's economy and are often targets for those frustrated with living standards.

Officials in Jakarta have pledged to keep the capital free from politically motivated protests as the country prepares for a presidential election in March. They say protesters could be jailed for up to five years. (Reuters, AP)

"They are the one institution that assures that the country holds together," he said.

At this critical moment for the country, the armed forces are mostly seen here not as a threat but as a promise of stability. With the country's economy collapsing, with its political future uncertain and with price riots flaring from town to town, the military is described here as the backbone of Indonesia.

But praise for its methods is far from unanimous. It is blamed for human rights abuses that include massacres of separatists in East Timor, arrests and mistreatment of dissidents and labor leaders and abuses of power in towns and villages where it is the principal authority.

It is also accused of widespread corruption that ranges from exchanges of favors with local businessmen, to illegal logging and mining, to huge financial deals with powerful conglomerates.

But it is still respected among In-

donesians as the army of liberation from Dutch colonialism a half-century ago and as a continuing symbol of nationalhood.

As the full force of Indonesia's economic meltdown hit the country a month ago, causing a wave of panic buying, rumors circulated that the military might stage a coup against President Suharto. But virtually every political expert here says there is almost no chance of that unless Indonesia disintegrates into chaos.

The military is an integral part of Mr. Suharto's administration and a powerful force at every level of government. Internal rivalries aside, experts say, it is united in its loyalty to the president.

By constantly shuffling its leadership over the years, by placing his personal aides in top commands and by ensuring that these commanders have different personal backgrounds and agendas, Mr. Suharto has seen to it that all lines of command flow directly to him.

"His strategy for preventing a coup is to make sure the top four or five people with command of troops are not really great friends with each other, so that if one wanted to make a move, there would be two or three against him," said Harold Crouch, an expert on the Australian National University in Canberra.

This is a high-profile moment for the armed forces, with unemployment and rising prices putting a strain on public order and with an electoral assembly due to confirm Mr. Suharto for a seventh five-year term next month.

In addition to being a visible presence in the streets, accompanied by warnings that it will brook no disorders, the military is a crucial player in the formation of a new government.

With Mr. Suharto's re-election assured, the key question is who he will name as his vice president and potential successor. Mr. Suharto has hinted at his preference for a long-serving aide, B. J.

Habibie, and two of the three approved political parties appear to have seconded him. But the military has not yet spoken, and until it does, no decision will be final.

In a nation with a leadership widely viewed as corrupt and a huge but ineffectual bureaucracy, said a member of Parliament, the military "is the only institution with a national ideology, with clear lines of authority and with a national system of discipline."

At the heart of the military's wide-ranging role is a home-grown philosophy known as *dwiguna*, or dual function. It is a rather vague and shifting philosophy with one clear meaning: In addition to the usual military duties, the armed forces have an explicit legal role as part of Indonesia's government and administration.

Seventy-five seats in the 500-member Parliament are reserved for the military — in addition to any elected seats held by military officers. A significant number of government posts, including nearly half of provincial governorships, are held by military men. Cabinet ministers, senior civil servants, ambassadors and directors of state corporations are often soldiers.

Despite its broad political role, the Indonesian military includes fewer than 300,000 troops in a nation of 200 million people — smaller in proportion to population than such neighboring nations as Singapore and Malaysia.

But in the absence of any clear external threat, only about one-third of this number is engaged in traditional military duties. The remainder are in territorial units that function in parallel with the civilian administration in even the smallest towns.

Their duties include not only maintaining public order but also monitoring political parties, nongovernmental organizations and religious and labor groups to assure they do not mobilize political opposition.

In this role, the military is often heavy-handed. Two years ago, it engineered the ouster of Mrs. Megawati, an increasingly outspoken opposition leader, as leader of one of the country's three approved parties.

But military experts say that a younger, better-educated generation is moving up through the ranks, and the nature of Indonesia's future governments is being debated as vigorously within the military as outside it.

According to one Western expert, a significant number of younger officers would prefer to withdraw from many civil functions and "lead from the rear," keeping a careful eye on an increasingly demilitarized civil administration.

At the same time, military academies have begun offering courses in human rights issues and in the proper handling of unruly crowds.

Significantly, in a few cases over the past two years, military courts have given prison sentences to soldiers convicted in the deaths of civilians.

### New Commander Named

Mr. Suharto on Monday installed General Wiranto, a trusted former aide, as armed forces commander. The Associated Press reported.

"The armed forces are fully in control and can manage the situation," General Wiranto said after he was sworn in. He denied that the economic crisis alone was the reason for the unrest in Indonesia and blamed "certain groups" for fomenting trouble and spreading rumors. He did not elaborate.



General Wiranto, Indonesia's new military chief, at his installation Monday with his wife, Uga, and Mr. Suharto.

## CRASH: China Airlines' Jet Bursts Into Flames in Taipei Landing

Continued from Page 1

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear, although Hsu Lu, general manager of the Voice of Taipei radio station, said in an interview that her news staff was reporting that visibility was bad at the time and that the control tower had asked the pilot not to land.

Her account could not be immediately confirmed.

There appeared to be no survivors.

"In view of the gravity of the disaster, it would be very difficult for anyone to survive this disaster," Wei Hsuan-chih, deputy director of the airport, was quoted as saying by Taiwan's Central News Agency.

As the plane, an Airbus 300 jumbo jet, attempted to land it slammed into at least four houses several hundred yards short of the airport runway, setting them on fire.

Flames poured from the first and second floors of the buildings as fire-

fighters sought to extinguish fires from the airplane wreckage and the burning homes, according to pictures broadcast by the BBC.

Thick smoke billowed from pieces of the plane, including what appeared to be the plane's engines.

A Central News Agency reporter at the scene described charred body parts being scattered over fields and on a road running near the airport.

A woman surnamed Chen who was watching her home burn was quoted as saying, "there were people in the house, but it's totally finished."

As Central Bank governor, Mr. Sheu had been credited with adhering to a conservative monetary policy that helped Taiwan thrive amid the region's economic crisis.

Born in 1927 in Taipei, Mr. Sheu worked in a series of banks before being elevated to the post of central bank governor in 1995.

China Airlines has had a history of safety problems that only began to be

resolved last year.

In 1994, an Airbus identical to the one that crashed Monday evening, crashed at Nagoya airport in Japan. And in 1993, a new China Airlines Boeing 747-400 skidded off a slick runway at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport into Victoria Harbor.

No one was killed in that accident, but the \$140 million plane was destroyed.

The Airbus that crashed Monday night, China Airlines flight 676, was due to land at 8 P.M. but went down at 8:05 P.M., according to the China News Agency.

A 10-year-old boy was pulled alive from the wreckage, according to Ms. Hsu of the Voice of Taipei radio, but he later died.

"It seems like there was no visibility," said Ms. Hsu, who said she was repeating what her news reporter from the scene had told her.

"The tower staff asked them to fly around and not to land. But after that they lost contact with the airplane."

■ New Commander Named

Mr. Suharto on Monday installed General Wiranto, a trusted former aide, as armed forces commander. The Associated Press reported.

"The armed forces are fully in control and can manage the situation," General Wiranto said after he was sworn in. He denied that the economic crisis alone was the reason for the unrest in Indonesia and blamed "certain groups" for fomenting trouble and spreading rumors. He did not elaborate.

### BRIEFLY

#### Weather Blocks Aid To Afghan Victims

RUSTAK, Afghanistan — Bad weather forced two United Nations planes packed with supplies for thousands of earthquake survivors to abort a landing Monday afternoon to Pakistan, witnesses said.

The weather also prevented two Russian-made cargo planes from leaving northern Afghanistan to pick up more supplies in Pakistan and Nadeem Kiyani, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman, said. The planes were provided by the opposition alliance that controls the area.

The aircraft were trying to ferry aid to the survivors of a 6.1-magnitude quake that devastated the northern region Feb. 4. At least 4,500 people are reported to have died in the quake and landslides triggered by aftershocks. (AP)

#### Hong Kong Protest Yields No Jail Time

HONG KONG — Four labor campaigners were convicted Monday of disrupting the legislature with protests over workers' rights, but they received light sentences.

Magistrate David John Dutton convicted the four of causing disturbances that interrupted meetings in July and October. They were released on condition that they avoid any arrests in the next six months.

Leung Kwok-hung, Koo Sze-yin, Cheng Ki-ki and Ng Kung-siu were the first to be arrested for staging unauthorized protests after Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule last summer. Protests remain legal in Hong Kong if they are approved in advance by the police. The four men and a handful of supporters protested near the courthouse Monday shortly before the hearing. (AP)

#### Hanoi Lets Media Visit Restless Area

HANOI — Vietnam said Monday that it was lifting a 10-month ban on travel by foreign journalists to a northern province that has been the scene of months of unrest.

A Foreign Ministry official said permission had been given to journalists to visit Thai Binh Province on a specially arranged trip this week.

No reasons were given for the lifting of the ban, which was imposed last year after protests against local state officials turned violent. Residents say the province, 80 kilometers (50 miles) southeast of Hanoi, has been calm in recent weeks. (Reuters)

#### For the Record

The police were on high alert in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, a state newspaper said Monday, following the deaths of at least 16 people in an explosion apparently caused by a bomb that ripped apart a bus. The police remained tight-lipped about the cause of the blast Saturday. (Reuters)

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## BRIEFLY

**Weather Blocks Airstrikes To Afghan Victims**

RUSTAK, Afghanistan — Weather forced two United Nations planes packed with supplies to abort a landing Monday night to assist a landing Monday night.

The weather also prevented Russian-made cargo planes from flying supplies in Pakistan.

Saleem Khiani, a Pakistani Ministry spokesman, said the weather controls the area.

The aircraft were trying to land at the survivors of a 6.0-magnitude quake that devastated northern Pakistan on Feb. 4. At least 1,500 people are reported dead in the quake and landslides triggered by aftershocks.

**Hong Kong Protest Yields No Jail Time**

HONG KONG — Four protesters were convicted of disrupting the legal protest over workers' rights that received high sentences.

Magnates David John condemned the four protesters that interrupted meetings in July and October. They were found in violation that they had no right to the next assembly.

Cheng Keung-hung, Ko Sui-cheng, Kam Lok Ng, and Wong Lok-shing were fined \$1,000 each for obstructing public order.

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## U.K. Seeks Expulsion Of Sinn Fein

### 2 Killings Are Cited As Peace Talks Resume

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

DUBLIN — Britain called Monday for Sinn Fein to be expelled from the Northern Ireland peace talks because of two killings linked to the party's allies in the Irish Republican Army.

The police have accused the IRA of violating its seven-month-old cease-fire — the primary condition for Sinn Fein's participation in negotiations on Northern Ireland's future — by killing a drug dealer and a Protestant militant last week.

Earlier Monday, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, angrily predicted that Britain would force his party out of the talks.

"Can the cause of peace be helped by us being dumped out of here tomorrow?" Mr. Adams asked as his delegation arrived at Dublin Castle, the center of British rule in Ireland before the predominantly Roman Catholic south won independence in 1921.

The Northern Ireland peace talks will be held here for three days this week.

"Why should anyone want to bring pressure upon the IRA to end killings when the IRA itself has said very publicly that their cease-fire is intact?" he asked. If Sinn Fein is expelled, he warned, it "may not come back."

The talks began in June 1996 and are supposed to conclude by May. The goal is to find a way to govern Northern Ireland that is acceptable to both its pro-British Protestant majority and the Catholic minority.

Last month, the British and Irish governments, which co-sponsor the talks, expelled representatives of the north's main pro-British Protestant paramilitary group, the Ulster Defense Association, because it had admitted killing Catholic civilians.

The Ulster Unionist Party, the main group representing Northern Ireland's Protestant majority, has threatened to pull out of the talks if Sinn Fein is not expelled.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Unionists, said it was nonsense for Sinn Fein to say it had no connection with the IRA.

"They must go," he said on BBC radio. "You cannot have people who are involved in terrorist violence at the table of democracy."

Asked what would happen if Sinn Fein were not expelled, Mr. Taylor said:

"We would have to retire to consider the situation because there is no way in which we could continue to sit at the table of democracy with people who have a paramilitary wing carrying out murders."

"You must remember that the IRA and Sinn Fein are the same organization. They are two branches of the one movement. It's simply nonsense for Sinn Fein to say they have no connection with the IRA," he added.

Officials in both governments said they weren't sure when a decision would be reached on Sinn Fein, since all seven parties in the talks will be allowed to present arguments first.

The governments probably would let Sinn Fein re-enter the peace process within several weeks — as long as the IRA is not implicated in any more killings. They have already made a similar offer to the Ulster Democratic Party, which could be back at the table later this month.

Sinn Fein, fearful of divisions erupting within party and IRA ranks, has suggested it would file a legal challenge in the Irish Republic's courts and organize mass protests in the north if the party is ordered out.

Sinn Fein says it should be treated separately from the IRA — even though the party's admission to the talks in September was dependent on the IRA's declaration of a cease-fire the previous July.

While saying the cease-fire is intact, the IRA has not confirmed or denied killing a drug dealer, Brendan Campbell, or Bobby Dougall, a member of the Ulster Defense Association.

On Friday, Northern Ireland's police chief, Ronnie Flanagan, concluded that the IRA killed both men.

The IRA has killed nine suspected drug dealers since 1995, and is believed to have targeted Mr. Dougall in retaliation after Protestant militants killed eight Catholic civilians in December and January.

(AP, Reuters)



## Turkey Renews Drive To Curb Dissident Speech

Istanbul Mayor and Kurds' Party Are Charged

By Stephen Kinzer  
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — With two new indictments of prominent political figures, Turkish prosecutors have again signaled their determination to restrict speech that they believe endangers national unity.

The cases, one against the mayor of Istanbul and the other against the only legal Kurdish-based political party, seemed certain to increase criticism of Turkish laws that prohibit statements that in many other countries would be considered normal political discourse.

On Friday, prosecutors in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir filed charges against Mayor Necmettin ErdoÄan in connection with a speech he made in the nearby town of Siirt last year. In that speech, Mr. ErdoÄan was calling for the creation of a "mosque of jihad," or holy war. It also charged him with "using democracy to establish an

evil order." If convicted, he could face as much as three years in prison.

Last month, Turkey's highest court closed the Welfare Party, declaring that it sought to undermine the secular basis of the Turkish Republic.

The court also banned seven of the party's top leaders from politics, including its chairman, former Prime Minister Necmettin ErdoÄan. Since then, there has been speculation that pro-Islamic politicians would form a new party, and that Mr. ErdoÄan, 43, would become its leader.

Mr. ErdoÄan has become a popular figure in Istanbul, Turkey's largest city, for restoring municipal services that had deteriorated and embarking on public works projects.

Abdullah Gul, a Welfare leader who is a member of Parliament, said of Mr. ErdoÄan: "If you read the whole text of his speech, you will see that he was calling for unity, not provoking anyone or anything."

He added: "I have information that the Justice Minister called prosecutors in Diyarbakir and Siirt and urged them to push this case. They are also trying to lift my immunity and make a case against me. They say I am provoking the people, that I have made statements against the army."

At almost the same hour that the indictment of Mr. ErdoÄan was filed, a prosecutor in Ankara, the capital, announced that he was ordering the arrest of the entire 57-member directorate of the People's Democracy Party, one of the country's few legal pro-Kurdish organizations. Nine members of the directorate were reportedly taken into custody.

The party ran strongly in Kurdish districts in the 1996 national election, but it failed to win 10 percent of the vote nationwide and, as a result, is not represented in Parliament.

Kurdish parties have had a difficult time operating in Turkey. The government has closed a succession of them, insisting that they served as front groups for the rebel Kurdistan Workers Party, a guerrilla army that is waging a separatist war in southeastern provinces.

The leading Kurdish politician in Turkey, Leyla Zana, is serving a 15-year jail term after being convicted in 1994 of advocating separation and supporting the Workers Party. But her image may form part of the case against the party.

Government officials have complained about a 1998 calendar that the People's Democracy Party produced and distributed. One page carries a photo of Ms. Zana, and another contains a list of Kurds and others who have been victims of "mystery killings" that some analysts attribute to government death squads.

"The calendar is an element of crime among others," the Ankara prosecutor, Talat Sait, told Reuters after he issued the arrest warrants Friday.

## Mea Culpa! Odd Confessions (for a British Daily)

By Sarah Lyall  
New York Times Service

LONDON — It is not news that newspapers make mistakes, garbling names, misquoting sources, reporting that a figure was \$812 when

## INTERNATIONAL

**When UN Inspectors Report on Iraq, Who Gets the Data?**By R. Jeffrey Smith  
*Washington Post Service*

**WASHINGTON** — As U.S. military planners list targets in Iraq that may be attacked soon, they will draw partly on the results of seven years of UN inspections that detail the function of hundreds of sensitive Iraqi industrial plants and weapons-related facilities.

Does that mean the inspectors are really spies for Washington's military forces, as Baghdad routinely claims?

After all, a 1995 revelation by the United Nations that crates of sophisticated missile equipment were being shipped from Russia to Iraq provided an intelligence bonanza for the CIA. So did the United Nations' discovery in 1991 that Iraq had stashed away secret components of an advanced nuclear weapons program, and the UN revelation in 1995 that Iraq had produced a sizable arsenal of deadly germ weapons.

Iraq has cited the prominent roles of Americans in the UN Special Commission on Iraq in arguing that the inspectors are snooping into matters unrelated to their mandate. It also has claimed that Washington used its influence to skew the focus and conclusions of the in-

spectors, trampling Iraqi sovereignty in an effort to gain military advantage and prepare for strikes like the one now threatened.

U.S. and UN officials alike deny the claims, however, and Iraq has not convinced any independent experts that the commission erred in saying that Iraq was still hiding data, equipment or weapons of mass destruction it was ordered to surrender in 1991. In fact, no military strike would be looming if Iraq had given the UN inspectors unfettered access, as ordered by the UN Security Council.

A more accurate statement, according to U.S. and UN officials, would be that UN inspectors do indeed act as spies inside Iraq, insofar as they are attempting to learn things that Iraq prefers to keep hidden. Moreover, many countries — the United States not the least — are eager to learn everything the commission knows and use various means to find out about it, ranging from debriefing its experts to observing them from afar.

One reason for the intense international focus is that the commission remains the key to unlocking the vast supply of Iraqi oil that eventually will be

sold on the world market, affecting prices around the globe. Only when the commission certifies that Iraq has eliminated all its threatening weapons and surrendered the relevant records will the Security Council consider withdrawing the sanctions barring large Iraqi oil

sales.

Sensitive information about Iraq does flow in and out of the commission's

## NEWS ANALYSIS

offices on the 30th and 31st floors of the United Nations tower in New York, UN officials say, but only because the organization lacks the ability to mount a sophisticated inspection effort without routinely getting unpublicized assistance from individual nations. This assistance is considered critical to assessing the importance or credibility of what the inspectors uncover.

But commission officials argue that they collect intelligence in Iraq only on a narrow list of authorized topics, and that they do so only on behalf of the Security Council, not any individual government.

Ewen Buchanan, spokesman for the Special Commission, said the staff of the

commission cringed at the notion of spying because that connoted "something bad." But he affirmed that its aim was to collect whatever data it could on banned Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

The dispute arises largely because in the rush — after the 1991 Gulf War forced Iraqi troops from Kuwait — to ensure that Iraq could no longer threaten its neighbors, the Security Council vested the Special Commission with powers greater than any previous UN organization.

Commission representatives were authorized to go anywhere in Iraq, ferret out any hidden illicit military capabilities, demand the destruction of any weapons-grade military equipment and answer only to the Security Council. But the commission had no staff of its own and little money.

Rolf Ekeus, the first chairman of the commission, decided he had no choice but to forge a staff from experts sent to the commission by willing governments, whose salaries would be paid by these governments, a practice that lies at the heart of Iraq's recent complaints.

Only a small fraction of the estimated 60 professionals at the commission in

New York and 100 professionals in Baghdad or Bahrain are actually on UN salaries. Instead, most are paid by the countries that either supported or participated in the military coalition that fought Iraq in the Gulf War. These are the countries that have been the most devoted to the task of undermining the Iraqi military threat.

When the experts begin work at the United Nations, each must sign a statement promising not to seek or accept instruction from any government or outside authority, and not to communicate at any time to any other person or government what they learn unless it has already been made public or is authorized by the United Nations.

In exchange, they gain the immunities and protections traditionally granted to employees of the international organization.

Members of the peer review panels organized periodically by the commission to verify the accuracy of its conclusions do not sign a similar nondisclosure agreement.

All this aside, it is no secret that some of these experts report their findings not only to the commission, but also to their own governments.

**FRANCE:**  
**Iraqi Invited to Talks**

Continued from Page 1

say that, if it can be done by avoiding dropping bombs and killing women and children, that would be better."

France and Russia urged the United States to support a last-minute mission by the secretary-general to Baghdad to try to get Iraqi agreement to a plan they believe would save face for Mr. Hussein, who had declared the eight sprawling "presidential sites" off-limits to UN inspectors.

Under the plan, diplomats from the five permanent member countries on the Security Council — the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China — would accompany the chief UN arms inspector, Richard Butler, on a "white-glove" inspection of parts of the complex the Iraqi leadership actually lives in, in return for unlimited access for the arm experts to the rest of the facilities.

Iraq has been insisting on limiting the inspections to only a 60-day period.

France is also bracing for a decision this month by the Clinton administration on whether to impose sanctions on the giant French oil company Total for its government-backed decision to go ahead with a \$2-billion natural gas exploration project in Iran with Russian and Malaysian partners.

**Italy Backs Annan Visit to Iraq**

Alan Friedman of the International Herald Tribune reported from Rome:

Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Monday that no military action should be taken against Iraq until Secretary-General Annan has a chance to visit Baghdad.

"I think we need to seek an agreement between the United Nations and Iraq," Mr. Prodi said in an interview Monday. "Our position is that before any military action is taken, Kofi Annan should visit Iraq. We in Italy want to push Kofi Annan to go to Baghdad and we want to push Saddam Hussein to respect UN resolutions and regulations."

Asked if it was sufficient for Mr. Annan to visit Paris, Mr. Prodi replied: "The question is whether he will go to Baghdad."

Mr. Prodi denied that domestic political considerations featured in his policy statement. In recent days there have been threats from the small Green Party and the Refounded Communists to withdraw from his majority coalition should bases

## BRIEFLY

**Algerian Forces Kill 52 Guerrillas**

**PARIS** — Algerian forces killed 52 Muslim rebels in military operations and had Algeria's most wanted outlaw leader trapped with 150 of his men after a flare-up of killings, Algerian national dailies said on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off by a 14-year-old girl who escaped rebels after six months in captivity, troops stormed a guerrilla base Sunday in the Medea area, about 70 kilometers (45 miles) south of Algiers, Le Matin newspaper reported. They killed 23 gunmen, and the military operation was said to be continuing.

In the western province of Tlemcen, soldiers killed 10 rebels hiding in a farm over the weekend. Le Matin said, in neighboring Telagh area, where dozens of civilians have been killed in rebel attacks, government forces killed 17 rebels on Sunday. L'Authentique daily said. Two more were slain over the weekend in the Bouira region east of Algiers, it said.

In the southwestern region of Saida, where 17 civilians and pro-government militiamen were killed Saturday in an ambush, troops trapped a 150-strong elite force of the Armed Islamic Group, including its commander, Antar Zouabri, L'Authentique said. (Reuters)

**Saudi King Seems Weak on Broadcast**

**RIYADH** — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appeared lethargic in state-run television footage broadcast after he had undergone medical checkups.

The footage shown Sunday evening showed the monarch barely able to lift his arm to shake hands with well-wishers at his palace.

Hospital sources said that the king was examined Saturday and Sunday at the King Faisal Specialist Hospital. His health has been the source of speculation since he suffered a stroke in 1995 and temporarily handed the reins over to Crown Prince Abdullah. (AP)

**Fujimori Regains Popularity in Peru**

**LIMA** — President Alberto Fujimori's popularity has risen again thanks to his personal campaign to lead relief work during El Nino storms now lashing Peru, a survey showed Monday.

The pollster Apoyo said Mr. Fujimori's general approval rating was up 7 percentage points in the first half of February, to 45 percent, compared with the end of January. The poll, of about 500 Lima residents, said 70 percent of those interviewed approved of his handling of the weather crisis. (Reuters)

in Italy be used for a U.S. strike against Iraq.

"My position is not based on domestic political considerations. It is Italy's policy," Mr. Prodi said.

In Washington, meanwhile, where the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, met for an hour Monday with Secretary of State Albright, an aide to Mr. Dini said Italy agreed with the United States that "there must be full observance of UN resolutions, and an opening of all sites to inspection."

**CLINTON: In the Midst of Crisis, a President Surrounded by Friends Stands All Alone**

Continued from Page 1

The surest evidence of how much things have changed is that Mr. Clinton's most intimate conversations seem to be with his legal counselors. These men, including Mickey Kantor, Robert Bennett, David Kendall and Charles Ruff, have little in common except their client. But to varying degrees they have become not only the president's lawyers but also his brothers, confidants, psychiatrists.

If he has not told them everything, they apparently have heard more than anyone, including Hillary Rodham Clinton, in some matters. To one or more of them, she has offered details of the most indecent troubles of his life involving Paula Jones, Whitewater and Monica Lewinsky. When he is frustrated, confused, feeling like a wounded animal, he is most likely to turn to them to talk about it. The conversations might never come around to his present predicament, but they will calm him down.

That his lawyers have emerged as his closest confidants is largely a matter of pragmatism. As one person close to the situation said: "Who the hell else is he going to talk to? He is not going to talk to Hillary about some of this stuff."

There is an even stronger hint in President Bill Clinton's travel schedule, since presidents do not usually start wars when they are away from Washington. The Clintons are scheduled to go to Stanford for a weekend, Feb. 25 through March 1, although the trip is not officially confirmed.

So it is not clear that military action can come in this month's moonless window, and it is fairly obvious that it will not come in the next. The reason? Mr. Clinton is traveling again, scheduled to leave on a five-country African tour at 5:40 P.M. on March 23 and to return on April 2, around dinner time.

A senior Defense Department official said the moon theory was "a little overdone." The U.S. military "is awfully good at night fighting, so night is better," he said, especially for an initial attack to suppress what he called "the largely reconstituted Iraqi integrated air defense."

During the Gulf War, the official said, "we bombed 40 days and 40 nights through new moons and old moons and all kinds of moons."

The military is flexible enough to cope, he insisted, and commanders can choose to hit targets with cruise missiles instead of airplanes if the danger to the airplane is too high.

As important as the moon may be, weather matters more. With so much laser-guided weaponry, clouds of blowing desert sand get in the way. Here again, the expensive cruise missiles are less affected than airplanes and are even less affected than they used to be.

During the Gulf War, to reach their target, the missiles followed the terrain through a form of laser radar in the nose. That meant problems over the desert, with missiles following each other in a line, because they all needed to focus on

House, said recently that he sought to be "supportive" of his friend "in good times and bad," but that Mr. Clinton had not sought his ear. Among the other Arkansas friends who came to Washington with him, the former deputy White House counsel, Vincent Foster Jr., is long dead from suicide and Webster Hubbell, the former associate attorney general who served a prison term for double-billing his old law firm, has been quietly discarded.

James Carville and Paul Begala, Mr. Clinton's pit bull consultants, are more concerned with learning about Mr. Clinton's adversaries than in dealing with the truth and consequences of their man. He has never bared his soul to them. The discredited political mastermind Dick Morris, banished for his own sexual transgressions, is one telephone call away from working his way back into Mr. Clinton's vortex, but he has been in temporary exile again since he theorized to a

unspoken subtext of potential legal bills, especially since Mr. Starr, the independent counsel, has shown such aggression in hauling people before his federal grand jury.

"This last month has been harder than ever for all of us," said an old friend from Arkansas. "When you see that everybody who is a friend or close to him has been subpoenaed, investigated, written about, it is just going to put another kind of artificial protective sort of distance there. If you talk to him at all, the unspoken mutual concern is: Don't say anything that will get you in trouble. Don't say anything that will get me in trouble."

These concerns are both a reflection of Mr. Clinton's behavior and a sign of the times. Jody Powell, press secretary to President Jimmy Carter, said he could not imagine working with the same fears and concerns that haunt Mr. McCurry and other Clinton aides.

The burden this situation places on Mr. Clinton's friends only exacerbates the sense of separation they feel from the president anyway simply because of the distance between his office and the rest of the world.

The contradiction of the presidency — feeling alone in the midst of people — is there even in the best of circumstances. The president is surrounded by people all day, every day. He lives and works inside the bubble of 35 Secret Service agents who accompany him from the moment he scrolls down the steps of the residence. Around them is another protective ring of 100 uniformed agents.

He has a personal aide at his side from dawn to midnight. Personal secretaries record his every appointment and utterance. Electronic monitors announce his movements. He is served all day by scores of counselors, special assistants, senior advisers, ushers, cooks, stewards. But none of those people around him, or any of his lifelong friends, can know the pressures that a president faces, and none of them can know his deepest fears and insecurities, not even the lawyers he confides in these days.

In that sense, he has no peers, only predecessors. Thomas Jefferson said the presidency brings "nothing but drudgery and a daily loss of friends."

Woodrow Wilson said he "never dreamt such loneliness and desolation of heart possible."

William Howard Taft called the White House "the loneliest place in the world."

During an earlier crisis, Mr. Clinton said, "Sometimes I really get lonesome for why I came here." But he had spent his life wanting to be president, preparing for it, amassing the network of friends that would help get him there.

If you talk to him, the mutual concern is:

Don't say anything that will get you in trouble.'

Los Angeles radio station that maybe Mrs. Clinton disliked normal marital relations, compelling her husband to turn elsewhere. So much for Mr. Morris.

George Stephanopoulos, the former aide who once spent more time at Mr. Clinton's side than anyone, and who often shuddered in private with worst-case scenarios of his boss, now shares them on television with the whole nation. He has said that he never felt like a Clinton confidant or peer in any case.

Other aides of his generation now plot tactics and strategies for the president without having a clue they acknowledge, about what he did or how he really feels.

Erskine Bowles, the chief of staff, has shown a distaste for personal controversy and has tried to keep the White House going as though Ms. Lewinsky and Kenneth Starr did not exist. Press Secretary Michael McCurry has told the clamoring press pack that on these issues he is determinedly and safely out of the loop.

Friends of Bill from Hot Springs, Fayetteville and Little Rock, and from his days at Georgetown, Yale and Oxford, offer variations on the same theme.

Whenever he was in trouble in the past, they stormed to his defense. This time they have tried to support him as best they can, but they have felt a certain distance. In almost every case, the explanation they offer is the same one that applies to Mr. McCurry, Mr. McLarty and others close to the president professionally or personally: They are worried about getting caught in the tangled web of investigations.

Every conversation with their friend comes with the



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, receiving the findings Monday of the inquiry into the Mossad's bungled assassination attempt from Joseph Ciechanover. Rafi Peled, left, and Dan Tolkovsky looked on.

**Panel Clears Netanyahu In Mossad's Bungled Hit**By Serge Schmemann  
*New York Times Service*

**JERUSALEM** — A commission appointed to investigate the bungled attack on a Hamas official in Jordan cleared Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday of any blame for the fiasco, and endorsed the policy that terrorists can be hit "wherever they may be."

At the same time, the three-man panel concluded that the attack last fall was flawed in its conception, training and execution, and charged that Danny Yatom, head of the Mossad, Israel's secret service, "erred in his handling of the operation and in approval of the plan."

But only one member of the panel, Rafi Peled, former chief of the national police, recommended that Mr. Yatom or any other Mossad officials be fired.

The head of the commission, Joseph Ciechanover, chairman of the Israeli national airline El Al, and Dan Tolkovsky, former legal adviser to the Defense Ministry, declared that it was not their task to make such recommendations.

The commission was appointed by Mr. Netanyahu after a Mossad assassination team tried to kill the political head of the militant Islamic movement Hamas. Khaled Meshal was attacked on a street in Amman, the Jordanian capital, on Sept. 25. After agents injected him with a slow-acting poison, Mr. Meshal's bodyguard gave chase, and the Mossad agents were captured.

The bungled operation turned into a major and costly embarrassment for Israel, seriously straining relations with the last Arab leader still on cordial terms with Mr. Netanyahu, King Hussein of Jordan.

The king, livid at the attack in his capital, demanded and received an apology from Mr. Meshal, and the release from an Israeli prison of the founder of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, in exchange for the agents.

Israel was compelled to agree to the conditions.

The report of the Ciechanover commission came as a relief to Mr. Netanyahu, who declared that he had "no dispute about the honesty and professionalism" of the commission members.

"I think they tried



## EDITORIALS/OPINION

**Herald Tribune**

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

**What Indonesia Needs**

Indonesia, battered by economic crisis and unprepared for the eventual departure of its dictator, President Suharto, is jittery over increasing unrest. Well it might be.

The last time the country changed rulers, in the 1960s, half a million people died in the upheaval, most of them ethnic Chinese.

Another violent transition can be avoided by planning now for an orderly and swift shift to democratic rule. For that to happen, Washington must register its objections to the 76-year-old Mr. Suharto's plan to have himself re-elected to a new five-year term next month.

America has complex interests in Indonesia. It needs to promote wiser economic management, to calm investors, to maintain regional security relationships and to minimize the pain suffered by the poor.

But discouraging Mr. Suharto's re-election by a compliant Parliament should be part of the mix. Recovery has been set back by his shifting responses to the financial crisis, including his new proposal to lock in exchange rates with a currency board before putting in place reforms that could make fixed rates sustainable.

Democracy can come about only through Indonesian efforts.

President Suharto has perpetuated his grip by eliminating rivals in the military or officially tolerated parties and ensuring that no plausible successor is ever groomed. If he is to be peacefully eased from power, it will

likely require the consent of Indonesia's armed forces, which have played a dominant role in politics and the economy since independence.

That role should be rapidly phased out, for the sake of military professionalism as well as democracy. Members of Indonesia's civic, labor, environmental and religious associations should be allowed to compete freely for political leadership.

Moving toward democracy will not be easy in a country that has known only dictators in its 48 years of independent life.

But the costs of a blocked political system are already visible in recent threats made against the Chinese minority as food prices and unemployment have risen.

The Chinese account for less than 4 percent of Indonesia's 200 million people but own as much as 70 percent of the country's private wealth. Yet for every international tycoon among them, like Mochtar Riady, there are thousands of small shopkeepers and merchants threatened with losing all they have to angry mobs.

Increasing democracy will not eliminate tensions between Indonesia's Muslim majority and Chinese minority. But it can provide more constructive outlets for public fear and anger than now exist.

It also opens new possibilities for replacing an economic system based on cronyism and corruption with an honest, accountable marketplace.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

**Europe and the Press**

Article 10, Section 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights is majestic in its sweep and simplicity. "Everyone has the right to freedom of expression," it begins, "... without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers."

This is what you would expect from a document that is one of the core sources of liberties claimed around the world.

But look, along with the international watchdog World Press Freedom Committee, at another article. It burdens the exercise of free expression with "duties and responsibilities," permitting restrictions in the interest of national security, territorial integrity, protection of the reputation of others, preventing disclosure of information received in confidence and so on—the whole familiar litany of rationalizations for official censorship.

The West European countries that wrote the convention in 1950 prided their democratic traditions but wanted to preserve a cautionary hand.

In practice, the infrequent applications of Section 2 provisions were largely blunted by rulings of the European Court of Human Rights.

But the dubious language was not altered, and the later addition of formerly Communist-ruled countries to the Council of Europe had the effect of confirming the initial readiness to safeguard the rights of governments to restrict the media.

The World Press Freedom Commit-

tee has been on the Council's case for years. It took the glaring internal contradiction to Strasbourg late in 1996, asking whether the Council would tend to the matter if the committee could produce 200 examples of how the offending principles had been used to justify shutting down newspapers, jailing journalists and the like.

"Sure," a Council official said. "Do you have such evidence?"

In the committee's new report, "Perverse Results: How the European Convention on Human Rights supports global restrictions on press freedom," Dana Bullen and Rosalind Stark lay out the evidence case by case.

Over the five years ending in 1996, the restrictions were used nearly 1,200 times in 109 countries to justify assaults on press freedom.

This is a low figure. It excludes the hundreds of other assaults where local free press or human rights groups did not enter the fray.

Noting that the language of the document offers "ready examples—even invitations—to those in power desiring to curb news media," the report found it "profoundly disturbing that ideas contained in overwhelmingly useful human rights documents serve to legitimize abuses against a fundamental human right."

The new report has been met with silence in Strasbourg. It is time to hear what the Council intends to do to halt its equivocation on press freedom.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

**Peru and Ecuador**

From being South America's most bitter enemies, Peru and Ecuador are moving to resolve a half-century of conflict that has cost them and their region dearly in blood and treasure and access to a brighter future.

They are now set on completing a peace treaty that will erase the traces of a wasting 19th century quarrel, steady their relations with each other and boost the cause of Western Hemisphere integration. This Tuesday in the capitals of the four treaty guarantors—Brazil, Argentina, Chile and the United States—the drive down the home stretch begins.

The master lying between Ecuador and Peru is often called a border dispute, but this scarcely describes its sources of ultranationalism and political obsession. Somehow Ecuador came to include the Amazon River as a key element in its national identity. The trouble is, Ecuador was never in contact with or control of territory on the fabled waterway.

A treaty of 1942 with Peru offered Ecuador free access to the Amazon Basin but was never put into effect. The issue has smoldered since; there was a brief but nasty remote-jungle

war in 1995. That war's silver lining was the combatants' recognition that the price and peril of their continuing encounters were rising to dangerous levels and blurring their focus on their more important obligations.

They were helped along the way to this conclusion by the four countries that had accepted still-live guardian responsibilities in the 1942 treaty and that we're now pleased to put multilateral hemispheric diplomacy to work.

The result being sought is a treaty that would demarcate a relatively small disputed area in a settled boundary line of more than 1,600 kilometers. It would bestow on Ecuador not sovereignty over this area but navigation rights and full access leading to border integration. The treaty also would create a foundation for contemporary cooperation between the two countries.

The conflict between Ecuador and Peru is a 19th century weight on a continent heading into the 21st century. The treaty under preparation would resolve this conflict the modern way—by applying law. It would mark a triumph of maturity over hysteria.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

**For Asia, Confidence Means Structural Reforms**

By Paul M. Dickie

**M**ANILA — The drastic fall in value of the currencies of some East Asian countries is beyond economic rationality. To survive, the region must confront and begin to resolve a neglected set of major problems.

In the past, large currency depreciations were explained by a loss of export competitiveness, and could be corrected by tight fiscal and monetary policies. The cause of such crises generally lay in wrong macroeconomic policies where the printing of money at home and borrowing too much abroad fueled excessive consumption.

But this time it was different. Asian economies have generally followed sound macroeconomic policies.

Before the crisis began in July, savings were high, budgets were generally in surplus and monetary policies were correct. Current account deficits ranged between 4 and 5 percent of GDP (except for Thailand at 8 percent), reflecting inflows of foreign direct investment which, over time, could be expected to benefit the economy.

What caused the free fall? The answer lies in the structural defects of these economies. While they vary from coun-

try to country, financial sector weakness is the notable common problem.

In South Korea, family-run conglomerates were overextended, with average debt-to-equity ratios of 4 to 1, and in some cases 10 to 1. With government support, banks provided too much credit to diversify and open new export markets. When a cyclical downturn in electronic and other export goods occurred in 1996 and 1997, the conglomerates needed more support than the government could provide. Bankruptcies followed, and the bad debts led to a banking crisis and a loss of confidence by both domestic and foreign creditors.

In Indonesia, since deregulation began in 1988, banks more than doubled in number to reach a total of more than 240, but without proper supervision. Companies overborrowed from local banks.

In addition, the Indonesian private sector borrowed heavily from foreign banks without hedging the foreign ex-

change risk in case the rupiah fell sharply, as happened after Thailand

was forced by a shortage of foreign exchange in July to let the baht float.

Financial governance in the public and private sectors in Indonesia was weak; the influence of business done on political connections was strong. With the fall of the rupiah, firms were unable to repay their foreign debts.

Such structural problems take time to resolve, and it will involve high social costs. But governments have little choice but to commit to the necessary restructuring.

Under the bailout led by the IMF, Thailand is reforming its banking sector with World Bank help. The Asian Development Bank is assisting with reforms of the capital markets. Both banks are helping to build a better social safety net in Thailand. South Korea and Indonesia are involved in similar reform programs.

The way ahead is fraught with difficulty. In the past, "approval charges" (a euphemism for corruption) often hugely inflated major project costs, making them uncompetitive. Asia will have to pay for such hidden charges.

The adjustment costs from this crisis will be massive. Most utilities and

companies cannot service their external debts, so bankruptcies and increasing unemployment will compound the problem. Inflation will accelerate to an annual rate of 20 to 40 percent in the worst-affected economies. Unemployment at home will be aggravated by jobless migrant workers returning from overseas.

But in each case, the key to recovery will be a credible commitment to reforms. The bottom line is the ability of the government to restore confidence.

In South Korea, President-elect Kim

Dae Jung is generating confidence and the tough decisions will be made. The falling rupiah indicates that confidence has yet to be generated in Indonesia.

Once structural reforms have taken hold, and confidence returns, East Asia should be able to absorb the economic and social costs involved. There is no reason the region cannot return to its previous high growth path. But it is easier to say that than to achieve it.

The writer, a senior official of the Asian Development Bank who coordinated the bank's programs for South Korea and Indonesia, contributed this comment to the Herald Tribune.

**The United States Lacks Legal Authority to Attack Iraq**

By Julie Dahlitz

**G**ENEVA — No extant Security Council resolution provides a mandate for use of force against Iraq in connection with any difficulties in weapons inspections. To use force in the absence of such a resolution would be an act of aggression.

Iraq should not be permitted to flout the will of the Security Council. On the contrary, there is no more urgent task than averting the threat or use of weapons of mass destruction.

Possession of such weapons by anyone who might be expected to use them aggressively is, of course, the greatest danger of all. States or persons who are not prepared to do everything in their power to prevent a situation of that kind have no interest in the world's welfare.

So it should be possible to convince the members of the Security Council to take the necessary steps. So far, there is no indication that they intend to shirk their duty.

It is only the best manner of proceeding that is in dispute—preferably, inspection arrangements that better accommodate Iraqi sensibility without sacrificing efficacy. (Such flexibility is usually shown in weapons inspection regimes.)

Just now, the major problem stems from a widely held erroneous belief that there is a Security Council resolution which permits the use of force against Iraq by the United States and/or any other UN member. At the least, it is thought, there are one or more resolutions that are ambiguous and could be read that way.

That is not so. There is no such mandate.

When the Gulf War ended in April 1991, the Security Council decided by Resolution 687 on a long list of requirements from Iraq, upon acceptance of which a formal cease-fire

would become effective. Those requirements included:

"... that Iraq shall unconditionally accept the destruction, removal or rendering harmless, under international supervision, of..."

"(a) All chemical and biological weapons and all stocks of agents and all related subsystems and components and all research, development, support and manufacturing facilities related thereto;

"(b) All ballistic missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometers, and related major parts and repair and production facilities..."

In that resolution's last clause, the Security Council

"decides ... to take such further steps as may be required for the implementation of the present resolution and to secure peace and security in the region."

In Resolution 1157 of 1997, regarding similar subject matter, the Security Council "expresses the firm intention to take further measures as may be required for the implementation of this resolution..."

These resolutions (the only relevant ones) do not give a mandate for military action.

There is no mention of what state or body may take any action, or of who is to decide — other than the Security Council itself — what and when action "may be required." If specify-

ing those matters were found to be unnecessary, any UN member state could apply any Security Council resolution with the use of force at any time.

In the past, when there has been consensus in the Security Council to take military action of a kind that, without a mandate, would amount to aggression under the Charter, the Council has used an entirely different form of words, including "authorization" of the action, and naming of who might carry it out.

Examples are to be found in the "Congo (Léopoldville)" Resolution 169 of 1961, in which the Security Council "authorizes the secretary-general to take vigorous action, including the use of the requisite measure of force, if necessary..."

In the "Desert Storm" Resolution 678 of 1990, unless Iraq complied with the requirement to retreat from Kuwait as described in several earlier resolutions, the Security Council "authorizes member states co-operating with the government of Kuwait ... to use all necessary means to uphold and implement" the relevant resolutions.

The unprecedented dangers of our day require greater wisdom, patience and honest cooperative endeavor than our forebears ever needed. It is to be hoped that those qualities will triumph.

The writer, a specialist in international law and editor of a book series on arms control law, contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

**Slay Saddam? Well, No, of Course, but ...**

By William E. Buckley Jr.

**G**ENEVA — Certain things, most sensible people will agree, should not be spoken about, and sometimes even deception is in order.

Some years ago I testified as a friendly witness to a defendant in a civil lawsuit. Joe McDonald, the author of "Fatal Vision," was being sued by Dr. Jeffrey MacDonald. There were special problems posed in the proceedings, - because the plaintiff was a defendant in the question: Did he lie when he said that a primary purpose in any campaign against Iraq was not the assassination of Saddam Hussein?

The jury divided on the issue, and one wonders how it would come up on a proceeding in which the president was a defendant in the question: Did he lie when he said that a primary purpose in any campaign against Iraq was not the assassination of Saddam Hussein?

On Nov. 20, 1975, a Senate investigating committee headed by Senator Frank Church filed its Report on Assassination. Committee members included such heavyweights as Walter Mondale, Gary Hart, Howard Baker and Barry Goldwater.

holding a triumphant hand up in front of the 12 jurors. I replied that the word "lying" had to be appraised by the context. "If my wife says 'Am I still the most beautiful woman in the world?' I don't think I have exactly 'lied' in saying 'yes.'"

The jury divided on the issue, and one wonders how it would come up on a proceeding in which the president was a defendant in the question: Did he lie when he said that a primary purpose in any campaign against Iraq was not the assassination of Saddam Hussein?

Although that gives the Protestants a veto over change as long as they are the majority in the province, a poll shows that more than 80 percent of Catholics accept the idea.

But will the IRA accept a settlement that recognizes the present status of Northern Ireland? Its historic stance has been that the division of Ireland is illegitimate, that the North must be part of a united Ireland. And the IRA has embraced violence as a proper means to that end.

Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, says it is committed now to the path of politics. Last year it won 16 percent of the vote in Northern Ireland. But the Ulster Unionists on the other side of the negotiating table say that his profession of nonviolence is not sincere, or that, if it is, he does not control the IRA.

More and more Catholics are now accepting the good faith of the British government. Prime Minister Tony Blair gained much credit when he set up an inquiry into Bloody Sunday, the shooting of unarmed Cath-

olic civilians in Londonderry in 1972.

For the first five weeks of this year the IRA exercised self-control in difficult circumstances. Protestant extremists killed six Catholic civilians; the IRA did not

respond. Then, last week, killers said by the police to be connected to the IRA murdered a drug dealer and a Protestant extremist. Why would the IRA break its cease-fire? No one can be sure.

When gunmen associated with the fringe Unionist Party carried out several killings last month, the party was expelled from the negotiations — but it is about to be reinstated. If Sinn Fein is treated the same way, that will present a crucial test of IRA intentions. Will it turn against the talks? Or will it maintain a cease-fire in the weeks ahead in order to be readmitted?

As always in the North, the issue is not one-sided. Whether the Protestant parties will accept a final compromise agreement is very much in doubt. One of their leaders appeared on television tearing up the framework of an agreement proposed by the British and Irish governments.

But the IRA is at the heart of the puzzle. Fintan O'Toole, writing in The New York Review of Books, said the question was "whether, without the reward of power, an undefeated paramilitary army can be persuaded to trade the epic certainties of violence for the unglamorous ambiguities of peaceful politics."

# ral Reforms

companies cannot service their debts, so bankruptcies and unemployment will compound the usual rate of 20 to 40 percent in affected economies. Unemployment will be aggravated by jobless grant workers returning from overseas.

But in each case, the key to recovery will be a credible commitment by the government to restore confidence.

In South Korea, President Kim Dae Jung is generating confidence, the tough decisions will be made.

The principal culprit, he declared, is the independent counsel Kenneth Starr.

His willing accomplices are leading members of the media establishment — the television networks, The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Time and other publications.

If, as Mr. Kendall asserts, the leaks have been designed to do political harm to the president, they have brought the job.

President Clinton, up to now, is a big winner. His poll ratings have risen to surprising heights, while Mr. Starr's have been sinking. The media have suffered, too. People avidly consume what we are telling them but say they don't believe most of it.

Both Mr. Starr and the press probably would suffer even more if Mr. Kendall's allegations turned out to be true. But that is not likely without better evidence than he produced in a 45-page letter addressed to Mr. Starr and released to the press at a televised news conference.

He cited 40 or so instances of what is now commonplace — legally protected grand jury material strategically leaked from [Mr. Starr's] office." I wondered at the time why

Mr. Starr had to uphold as "true" the relevant info.

The implications for the media are greater. Pollution and honest conduct in our foreign aid will be less of a priority.

Once structural reforms have been achieved, and confidence returns, both

the writer, a senior official of Asian Development Bank who directed the bank's programs for comment to the Herald Tribune.

## y to Attack In

were found to my UN membership any secretions with any time when there has a Security action of not a mandate.

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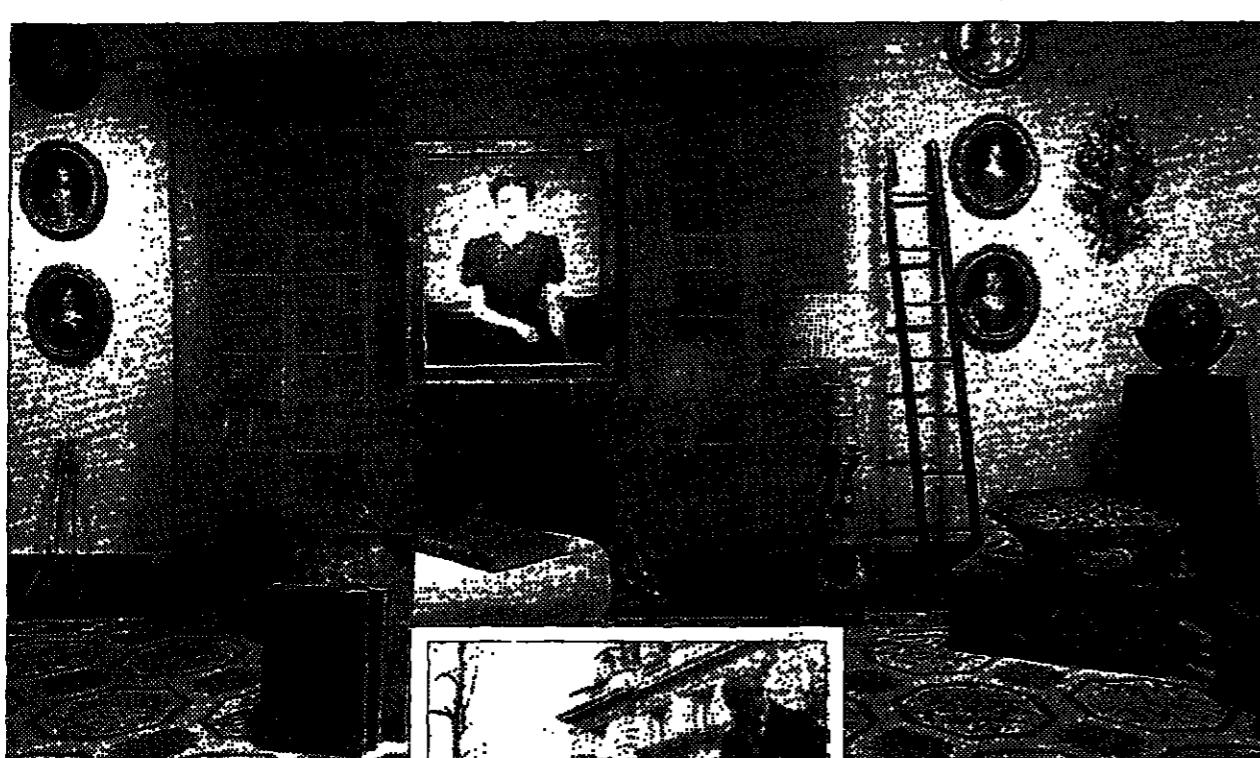
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# Style

## The Windsor Sale: A Cautionary Tale of Consumerism



Duke and Duchess in Paris. 1964.

### A Lifetime Amid His Books

By Rita Reif  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — Throughout his life, the Duke of Windsor lived surrounded by books. There were Bibles and prayer books that were given to him in childhood by his mother and his grandmother and 20th-century history books inscribed and sent to him by the world leaders who had written them.

There were numerous books on world travels, British royalty, golf, fox hunting, military history, cooking, wines, fashion, art, literature and pugs.

Books were part of the trappings of privilege, and the duke continued to accumulate them. He carted them with him whenever he changed residences, from palace to palace, first as Prince Edward of York, then as Edward of Wales and, finally, as King Edward VIII.

After he abdicated in 1936 and became the Duke of Windsor, he married Wallis Warfield Simpson, and the couple — and his books — moved to Paris. The duke and duchess kept books everywhere in the house; in the library, the drawing room, the study near his bedroom and even on the walls of the air-raid shelter in the basement. But they were apparently as much for display as for consumption; by all accounts, the duke would rather do needlework than read, though some of the books are well thumbed.

The Sotheby's sale of the Windsors' possessions that begins Tuesday represents a bonanza for book collectors for two reasons: Many of the books are inscribed by the powerful, rich and famous, and they are also from the first British royal library to come on the market.



At left, the library, with Gerald Brockhurst's 1939 portrait of the duchess; and mannequins in the dining room wearing the duke and duchess's clothing.

### Celebrity And Acquisition

By Mitchell Owens  
New York Times Service

**N**EW YORK — Auctions are about shopping. But increasingly, they are becoming a chance to reflect on the ultimate futility of acquisition.

Consider Sotheby's dispersal of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor's household chattel, from the formula for her L'Oreal hair dye to his painted taffeta heraldic banner to their 1940s neo-traditional furniture by Jansen, the eminent Parisian design house. These and more than 40,000 other Windsor relics will be disposed of in a nine-day sale that begins Tuesday at Sotheby's.

Emboldened perhaps by the round-the-block lines for the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis sale in 1996 and last year's auction of the estate of Pamela Harriman, Sotheby's specialists have used the Windsor windfall to exercise a curatorial breadth and narrative swagger that is more typical of museums than of auction floors. This distinction is partly due to the expertise of Ralph Appelbaum Associates, a New York design firm specializing in museum shows.

One of the most coveted items is likely to be a copy of "Profiles in Courage," inscribed in 1955 by John F. Kennedy. "To the Duke and Duchess of Windsor with the highest respects." The presale estimate of \$2,000 to \$3,000 may well prove to be conservative. Two years ago at the auction of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis collection, a copy of the Duke of Windsor's 1951 book, "A King's Story," dedicated to John F. Kennedy by "Edward," was estimated to sell for \$1,000 to \$1,500 and brought \$74,000.

Redden was struck by an object that he found on a table in the front hall of the Paris mansion, near the library, which he described as one of the most evocative reminders of the duke's past: a red leather document box, stamped "The King," the only object so marked in the collection. The relic had been used as a mailbox.



Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

More than they, and perhaps even Sotheby's, bargained for. The Windsor story, as seen here, is a contemplative and deeply moving visual biography that tells several cautionary tales — of consumerism run amok, of lives unfulfilled, of chances wasted and of cultural wounds that remain resolutely unhealed.

One elderly man was overheard at a preview last week muttering depictions about the duchess as he glared at a giant image of her and the middle-aged duke beaming in the entrance hall of their mansion on the Bois de Boulogne in Paris. After 62 years, it is apparent that neither style nor time has given the Windsors a break. Of course, they only had themselves to blame.

When measured by reality's cold

light, the Windsors' celebrity was based solely on one rash act. "Why are we celebrating?" an old acquaintance of the duchess pondered in his journal when the dethroned king and his wife drove through her native Baltimore in their official motorcade. "She brought

the duke made no lasting impact on history, except in fashion, with the Windsor-knotted tie and a daredevil abuse of tartan. The duchess, who wrote that "the possession of beautiful things is thrilling to me," supported none of the arts except couture.

Neither of them said anything particularly memorable, though the duke's declaration that he abandoned his country for "the woman I love" has a certain fatalistic glamour. The duchess's brittle bon mot about never being too rich or too thin (Elsie de Wolfe, one of her decorators, probably said it first) reverberates with what Noel Coward once called the potency of cheap music.

In the end, the sum of the Windsors' lives is not a matter of history but of the accumulation of possessions. The public exhibition of their goods ran through Monday. Net proceeds from the sale, which Sotheby's estimates will bring in

\$5 million to \$7 million, are to be distributed to children's charities that were supported by Dodi al Fayed and Diana, Princess of Wales. The sale had been scheduled for September but was canceled when the couple were killed.

A close look at the Windsors' displaced furnishings reveals a luxurious, slightly camp stage set on which not even the actors seemed secure in their roles. A magnificently stylish pair of tortoise shell and ivory consoles by Jansen turn out to be artificially painted wood an eighth of an inch thick. Then there is the avalanche of oversize monograms, exquisitely worked in gold, red or blue — on handkerchiefs, handbags, pillows, shoes, telephone books, note paper, even clima toothbrush cups.

There are so many monograms one gets the uncomfortable feeling that the duke and duchess spent their 35-year marriage on the defensive, barricading themselves behind a battalion of interlocked W's and E's, legitimizing their 15-acre (6-hectare) kingdom.

**V**ARIOUS reasons have been given for the emptying of the Windsors' turn-of-the-century house, where they lived from 1953 onward (the duke died in 1972 and the duchess in 1986). Mohamed al Fayed, who owns Harrods in London and the Ritz Hotel in Paris, leased the house and bought its contents after the duchess's death and spent the next three years restoring it as a private museum. Their last year, he suddenly announced that he and his family needed more room — specifically that occupied by the Windsors' oddments.

After walking through the Sotheby's installation, it seems possible that al Fayed's decision to sell was more personal than spatial: Perhaps the psychic weight of the Windsors' possessions was too oppressive to bear.

Sotheby's show — an intersection of gossip, society, decoration and politics

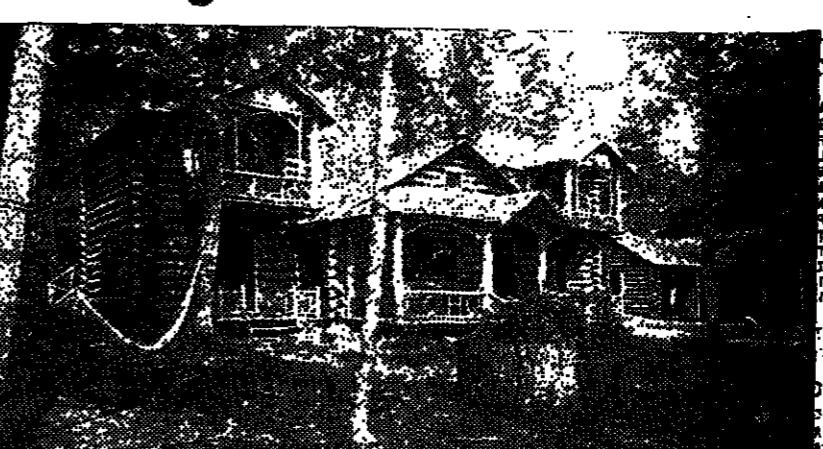
— takes the brightened Windsors from cradle to altar to grave. Transparent white panels printed with larger-than-life photographs of the duke and duchess and interior views of their three-story mansion serve as backdrops that give the essence of 10 of their rooms: the entrance hall; the salon; the dining room; his bedroom, bathroom and study; her bedroom and dressing area; and their private sitting room.

Chairs and tables, set on either side of the scrims, surreally fade in and out of view, as if holograms. Quotations from letters and poems are flashed onto the walls, providing a shorthand account of how Queen Victoria's tow-headed great-grandson grew up to inherit his family's throne, only to renounce it 11 months later to marry Wallis Warfield Simpson, a twice-divorced American.

There are treasures here, of course. When a couple's only hobby is spending money, they are bound to make a few good purchases. The most valuable Windsor relics were dispersed long ago, however. The duchess's vast jewelry collection was sold by Sotheby's in Geneva in 1987 for \$50.3 million, and most of the 18th-century French antiques and porcelains were willed to Versailles and the Musee de Sevres. But hundreds of choice items remain.

Then there is the abdication desk, a plain-spoken Georgian antique from Fort Belvedere, the duke's bachelor retreat near Windsor Castle, that by all rights should end up in a museum in England, not a living room on Park Avenue.

But the intimate possessions are distinguished solely by their associations: The duke sat on this, the duchess sipped from that. Curiously, it is precisely because Sotheby's has taken such pains to detail every facet of the Windsors' lives that the implied importance has been beaten out of nearly every object. In the end, the Windsors were just Wally and David, a smug, rich suburban couple.



Courtesy from "The Shaker World"; Adirondack photo by Seneca Ray Stoddard. "Early Days in the Adirondacks Great Camps (that is, luxury camping) has coincided with some measures of land protection by the state of New York, probably preventing the parceling of at least one of the great old estates nestled in this extraordinary wilderness, so quintessentially American and the source of the famous eponymous furniture."

"Early Days in the Adirondacks" (also Abrams, \$39.95 and £25) is the first major grouping of the haunting photographs of Seneca Ray Stoddard, a multifaceted man — photographer, of course, but also painter, journalist, guidebook writer, novelist, spiritualist and hypochondriac — with a text by Jeanne Winston Adler. Here is all the beauty of the Adirondacks from the middle of the 19th century, and the contrast between the camps for working men, the sanitarians where exercise was part of the treatment against tuberculosis, the Great Camps, where the rich roughed it in what has now become classic outdoors furniture, and the grand hotels with their massive verandas where the middle class increasingly came to vacation.

Seneca Ray Stoddard, born in 1843, started out as a sign and ornamental painter, and even when he began making money as a photographer saw himself as a landscape painter. As photography developed, it was both disdained and feared by painters. Interestingly, Stoddard, Jeanne Winston Adler points out, has been compared in his photography to the late Hudson River School painters, often known as luminists for their use of light in work

discovered in the late 1960s, and much of it is now in the Chapman Historical Museum and the Adirondack museum. A group of paintings, photographs and furniture from the Adirondack collection is at the Paine Webber Art Gallery in New York until April 3.

## The Shaker Paradox and Luxury 'Camping'

By Katherine Knorr  
International Herald Tribune

**I**t is one of those curious paradoxes of the design and fashion worlds that objects become fashion as they are turned away from their initial purpose — witness Christian Lacroix's use of crucifixes in his early days, or the enduring popularity of Shaker furniture and its various imitations, designs originally intended to be functional and simple, and that get sold in the plush surroundings of upscale furniture supermarkets, stripped of all the spiritual content.

"The Shaker World — Art, Life, Belief" by John T. Kirk (Harry N. Abrams, \$60; distributed in Europe by Thames & Hudson, £38) is a beautifully

illustrated coffee-table book that attempts to explain the curious world of the American Shaker communities through their objects, the chairs and the dressers, the naive artwork, and the famous oval boxes with their "swallowtails" with copper tacks. He also seeks to place the Shakers in the larger context of American and, indeed, international furniture design, and to show how they influenced painters and photographers.

As Kirk points out, Shaker design has been seen as a precursor to the Bauhaus, and Japanese or Danish 1950s design. This is a tricky comparison, not least because the Shakers were not for the most part "designers" or "theorists" of form and function. Still, Kirk believes, they were both more influenced by the design patterns of their time and more marketing-oriented than most people ordinarily think.

Much of the furniture — particularly what is known as Classic Shaker, representing the period between 1810 and 1860 — was indeed functional and austere. Still, it is interesting to note that much of it was painted in traditional bright neoclassical colors, often red, but also blue or green or yellow. A case with cupboard over drawers, described in the book as one of the earliest dated Shaker pieces (it is inscribed "January 29 1817"), was made of red-painted pine.

Other examples are a tailor's counter, blue on the bottom, orange on top, with cherrywood knobs and a pine body (about 1815), and a yellow-painted chest of drawers (1830-40). Shaker clothes and other textiles, such as rugs,

were also colorful; all of these things would have looked striking against the dramatic white-painted community houses, with their elegant wooden stairways and floor-to-ceiling cupboards.

It was only later that the Shakers started making stripped-down furniture or painting it white. Much of the painted furniture was also stripped down by postwar collectors, often harming the wood, until auctions in the late 1970s and early 1980s brought sudden interest in the painted furniture.

The Adirondacks in the 19th and early 20th centuries were famously the get-away for the rich, the sick and the artistic, and a recent revival of Adirondack Great Camps (that is, luxury camping) has coincided with some measures of land protection by the state of New York, probably preventing the parceling of at least one of the great old estates nestled in this extraordinary wilderness, so quintessentially American and the source of the famous eponymous furniture.

"Early Days in the Adirondacks" (also Abrams, \$39.95 and £25) is the first major grouping of the haunting photographs of Seneca Ray Stoddard, a multifaceted man — photographer, of course, but also painter, journalist, guidebook writer, novelist, spiritualist and hypochondriac — with a text by Jeanne Winston Adler. Here is all the beauty of the Adirondacks from the middle of the 19th century, and the contrast between the camps for working men, the sanitarians where exercise was part of the treatment against tuberculosis, the Great Camps, where the rich roughed it in what has now become classic outdoors furniture, and the grand hotels with their massive verandas where the middle class increasingly came to vacation.

Seneca Ray Stoddard, born in 1843, started out as a sign and ornamental painter, and even when he began making money as a photographer saw himself as a landscape painter. As photography developed, it was both disdained and feared by painters. Interestingly, Stoddard, Jeanne Winston Adler points out, has been compared in his photography to the late Hudson River School painters, often known as luminists for their use of light in work

### CROSSWORD



© New York Times/Edited by Will Shortz

### Shaker Troubles

### CURRENCY





## EUROPE

## As Confidence Grows, Russia Cuts Rates

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**PARIS** — Eurotunnel, the debt-laden operator of the Channel Tunnel, posted a narrower loss for 1997 Monday, citing an increase in passengers traveling by train and car.

## Chunnel Trimmed Loss in '97

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Eurotunnel said Monday it would cut key interest rates to 39 percent from 42 percent amid growing investor confidence that the government is repairing its finances and keeping the ruble strong.

The central bank said it would cut its Lombard and refinancing rates to 39 percent starting Tuesday. The refinancing rate is the rate that banks charge when lending among themselves, while the Lombard rate determines how much the central bank charges commercial banks for loans backed by securities.

The rate cut is the first since Oct. 6 and follows three rate increases in as many months.

"My expectation is that the market will interpret this as a bullish signal," said Robert Devane, head of the fixed-income division at the Moscow brokerage Troika Dialog, referring to the rate cut.

"The market has been rallying for about two weeks," he said. "There is now talk the IMF will disburse the next tranche to Russia, plus the cen-

tral bank seems to be doing good job in the last few weeks." The bank's last rate change came Jan. 30, when it raised the Lombard rate to 42 percent from 36 percent and the refinancing rate to 42 percent from 28 percent.

Separately, officials said Russia's inflation this year may reach 10 percent, well above an earlier forecast of 5.7 percent, which could make it difficult for the government to meet its financial targets.

## The IMF will pay close attention to President Yeltsin's 'state of the nation' speech Tuesday.

Vladimir Petrov, Russia's first deputy finance minister, said the government might have to include the more realistic inflation forecast in this year's budget, the Interfax news agency reported.

Last year's inflation rate was 11 percent, by far the lowest since free-market reforms began here in 1992. The government, hoping for a further cut this year, had predicated a

rate of 5.7 percent. But that figure is now looking too optimistic, Mr. Petrov said.

He also said it would be difficult for the government to raise the additional 27 billion rubles (\$4.5 billion) in revenue that had been added to its original budget plan.

(Bloomberg, Reuters, AP)

## IMF Praises Hungary

The IMF said it had ended a standby loan agreement with Hungary because the country's economy was strong enough to stand on its own. Reporters from Budapest.

The Fund praised the revitalized economy, saying it may grow by 5 percent this year. But it warned that inflation, running at about 18 percent a year, was still too high and was holding back investment and the development of a mortgage market.

The IMF's resident representative in Hungary, Mark Allen, welcomed the country back to the ranks of those that can manage their economic and financial affairs without "exceptional external assistance."

## Asia Crisis Clips Profit at Norsk Hydro

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

**OSLO** — Norsk Hydro A/S said Monday its fourth-quarter net profit fell 57 percent as the Asian economic crisis and a loss in its fertilizer division undermined record earnings from oil and gas.

The 51 percent state-owned company said net income for the fourth quarter fell to 865 million kroner (\$114.9 million) from 2.01 billion kroner in 1996. The year-earlier figure included a one-time gain of 776 million kroner.

Fourth-quarter sales rose 14.4 percent to 24.85 billion kroner.

For the year, Norsk Hydro's net income was 5.21 billion kroner, down 16 percent, despite a 13 percent increase in sales, to 96.17 bil-

lion kroner. Shares in Norsk Hydro, Norway's biggest publicly traded company, fell 10 kroner to 325 on the results, which were weaker than analysts had forecast.

"The setbacks we experienced toward the end of 1997 came faster and had a greater impact on our annual results than we had anticipated," said Egil Myklebust, president and chief executive officer.

"The performance in our fertilizer operations was not satisfactory. Aside from agriculture, however, our results last year were good."

Operating income from oil and gas surged to a record 6.74 billion kroner for the year from 5.63 billion kroner in 1996. (AFP, Reuters)

## Bonn Will Provide Cheap Loans for Construction Industry

Reuters

**BONN** — Germany announced Monday an aid package for the construction industry designed to raise 22 billion Deutsche marks (\$12.08 billion) in investment and prevent layoffs in the industry ahead of elections this year.

Construction Minister Eduard

Oswald said inexpensive loans from the Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau, a state financing agency, would help lift the construction sector out of a three-year recession.

"With these measures we will be able to secure around 100,000 construction jobs this year," Mr. Oswald said.

But the road to recovery would be long, he said, because construction activity had been falling since 1995.

Of the investments that Bonn is seeking to accelerate, about 9 billion DM would be financed directly by the agency, it said. The plan includes 3 billion DM in cheap loans to upgrade housing in Eastern Germany.

## WORLD STOCK MARKETS

## Monday, Feb. 16

Prices in local currencies.

Telekurs

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam AEX Index: 985.84

Previous: 974.42

High Low Close Prev.

Paris CAC-40: 3226.12

Previous: 3187.68

High Low Close Prev.

London FTSE 100 Index: 5,619.90

Previous: 5,582.30

High Low Close Prev.

Milan MIBTEL: 19,656

Previous: 19,577

High Low Close Prev.

Paris CAC-40: 3226.12

Previous: 3187.68

High Low Close Prev.

Stock Market Index: 182.31

Previous: 180.11

High Low Close Prev.

Tokyo Nikkei: 18,214

Previous: 18,175

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Stock Market Index: 182.31

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## ASIA/PACIFIC

# Yielding to Asia Crisis, Vietnam Devalues Its Currency

By Joseph Kahn  
New York Times Service

**BANGKOK** — Vietnam became the latest Southeast Asian country to devalue its currency Monday, as Asia's financial turmoil showed signs of pummeling even the most protected regional markets.

The Vietnamese central bank allowed the country's currency, the dong, to slip 5 percent, taking the dollar to a new controlled rate of 11,800 dong. The bank allows the dong to trade within a 10 percent band around the target rate, and the dollar rose to its ceiling of 12,980 dong, an all-time high.

The devaluation underscores the danger facing Vietnam, whose 74 million people make it the most populous Southeast Asian country after Indonesia. Relatively late to open to the outside world, Communist-run Vietnam never fully benefited from the region's economic boom.

But that has hardly isolated it from Asia's crash. Plunging foreign investment pledges and slackening exports show that the pain of the region's turmoil has already arrived on Hanoi's doorstep.

Allowing the protected dong to sink against the dollar is a sign that Vietnam has started to

worry that the crisis will have a greater impact on the country than they once hoped. Although the central bank permitted a small devaluation last fall, it has been reluctant to allow a big drop against the dollar.

A stronger currency has helped Vietnam import capital equipment it needs to modernize its factories and repay its heavy state bank debt at favorable prices.

Like China, Vietnam does not allow its currency to be traded freely on currency markets, so any devaluation is essentially a political decision. But markets played a role: Traders say that currency swap-market transactions, which had been running at as much as \$8 million a day, have shriveled to less than \$500,000 a day recently. Many companies have hoarded dollars or arranged trades on the black market, traders say.

"Vietnamese officials had been promising that they would hold the line," said an American executive in Hanoi. "I think the markets forced their hand."

He said many in the Vietnamese capital expected the new devaluation to be followed by further falls in the dong's value, especially if other currencies in the region remain at their new low levels against the dollar.

Vietnam once hoped tight restrictions on

foreign debt and its currency controls would inoculate it against the Asian contagion. But that now seems unlikely. Growth has already shown signs of sinking from a rate last year of 9 percent, and some economists expect growth this year of no more than 6 percent or 7 percent.

"Regional troubles present two clear threats to Vietnam," said Andrew Steer, Vietnam country director for the World Bank. "They face a loss of competitiveness and a decline in investment."

New foreign investment contracts dropped 40 percent last year, to \$5 billion. Furthermore, Vietnam relies on some of the East Asian countries most affected by the crisis, especially South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia, for two-thirds of its foreign investment, making a further slowing of pledges this year a good bet.

Pledges to invest reached almost \$9 billion in 1996, a sum that made Vietnam's small economy more dependent on foreigners for investment than any other in Asia.

The regional slowdown has also hit just as the early euphoria about Vietnam's opening has given way to realism. Foreign investors say they are swamped with red tape, changing regulations, inadequate legal protection and suspicion about their motives.

Among the disenchanted, Chrysler Corp. pulled out last year. Procter & Gamble Co.'s Vietnam unit has waged a heated battle against its state-controlled Vietnamese partner and now says it is on the verge of bankruptcy.

Complaints have grown so loud that Prime Minister Phan Van Khai held an unprecedented town meeting with 800 foreign investors last month, promising to speed up reform.

Regional turmoil has also undermined Vietnam's once-swinging exports. The country sells two-thirds of its exports to its neighbors, where imports are contracting. Commodities such as rice and coffee face stiffer competition from Thailand and Indonesia.

Despite low wage rates, the dong's relative strength has largely eliminated Vietnam's advantage as a base for manufacturing labor-intensive goods. In January, exports totaled \$650 million, down from \$850 million in December. Foreign garment and shoe makers in Ho Chi Minh city laid off some 3,000 workers at the end of 1997, the official Vietnamese press reported.

The modest devaluation just made will not provide much export stimulus, Mr. Steer of the World Bank said, but it showed that the government took the Asia crisis seriously and was trying to improve the business environment.

## Investor's Asia

Hong Kong	Singapore	Tokyo		
Hang Seng	Straits Times	Nikkei 225		
1552	200	19000		
1400	1800	18000		
1250	1600	17000		
1100	1400	16000		
950	1200	15000		
S O N D J F	S O N D J F	S O N D J F		
1997	1998	1997		
Exchange	Index	Monday		
		Close		
		Prev.		
		%		
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	10,124.05	-10,274.60	-1.47
Singapore	Straits Times	1,481.55	1,522.66	+4.58
Sydney	All Ordinaries	2,621.20	2,653.00	+1.20
Tokyo	Nikkei 225	16,775.52	16,791.61	+0.09
Kuala Lumpur Composite	661.94	685.50	+3.44	
Bangkok SET	484.06	498.97	+3.18	
Seoul Composite Index	476.98	506.20	+5.77	
Taipei Stock Market Index	8,706.29	8,706.46	+0.02	
Manila PSE	2,022.73	2,049.98	+3.45	
Jakarta Composite Index	457.71	448.15	+2.13	
Wellington NZSE-40	2,280.39	2,313.01	+1.08	
Bombay Sensitive Index	3,449.77	3,373.53	+2.26	

Source: Telekurs

International Herald Tribune

## In Japan, Banks Set Cost Cuts

'Big Bang' Prompts Move by LTCB and Fuji

Compiled by Our Staff Foreign Dispatches

**TOKYO** — Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. said Monday it would cut its staff by 20 percent and close half of its overseas bases in the next two years in a bid to cut costs by 25 percent.

LTCB's ultimate goal is to structure itself to drive in the new financial markets to be created by the "Big Bang," the bank said, referring to the coming liberalization of Japan's financial industries. Japanese banks are pushing forward with restructuring plans as they write off billions of yen in bad loans.

Fiji Bank Ltd., which forecasts a 450 billion yen (\$3.6 billion) pretax loss this year, also announced plans Monday to scale back its business in the United States and Europe, and close or merge 31 branches in Japan by March 1999.

Long-Term Credit said it would reduce the number of employees to 2,800 from 3,500 in two years and slash the number of directors to 6 from 28 beginning next month.

Long-Term Credit said it would move some of the employees while reducing recruitment.

The bank will also close about half of its 40 overseas units in two years, it said.

Commercial banking operations in Europe and Asia will be consolidated into London, Hong Kong and Singapore offices, the bank said. LTCB also has operations in Paris, Frankfurt, Thailand and Jakarta.

The bank's securities unit will be integrated into the network of its business partner, Swiss Bank Corp., resulting in the closing of London-based LTCB International, LTCB Switzerland and LTCB Latin America, the bank said. Long-Term Credit will also make performance-based pay a larger part of the salaries of management-level employees.

Those measures will allow the bank to reduce costs by 23 billion yen by March 2000, it said.

A spokesman for Fuji Bank, Japan's sixth-largest lender measured by assets, said it had not yet decided which of its 12 U.S. and nine European branches or offices to cut. But the business daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported that the bank would transfer the administrative functions of its San Francisco, Atlanta and Houston branches to its New York office and eliminate up to 40 workers. Fuji Bank will also close two or three of its branches in Europe, the newspaper said.

The bank said last year it would concentrate administrative functions in Europe and the U.S. in a few locations as part of a plan to make its business more efficient worldwide.

Long-Term Credit's shares fell 16 yen, or 4.7 percent, to 322 yen. Fiji Bank shares fell 6 yen to 920 yen. (AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters)



Employees of South Korea's troubled merchant banks shouting slogans during a demonstration Monday in Seoul. The Finance Ministry has revoked the licenses of 10 ailing banks.

## KOREA: Seoul Scratches to Make 'Safety Net' for Jobless

Continued from Page 1

and retraining for those displaced by the economic crisis, the most serious here in nearly 50 years.

There are a few government benefits to help the jobless, but there is no comprehensive system. Some companies pay laid-off workers 50 percent of their salaries for as long as nine weeks. However, many of these companies had not expected the large number of layoffs they now face and have no funds to assist those workers. And for a large number of South Koreans who own small businesses, there is no fallback at all.

Lee Won Ho, vice president of South Korea's Federation of Small Businesses, said that more than half of the 2.7 million small businesses here have fewer than five employees. Many of these companies do not have the means to help support their workers when they go bust. "So far, most of the pain here is emotional,

but soon, as family income runs out, the real pain will be felt," Mr. Lee said.

Roh Moo Hyun, a vice president of Kim Dae Jung's party and chairman of the legislature's Special Committee for the Prevention of Workers' Exploitation, said that despite its fiscal problems, the country "must strive to design the best unemployment package possible."

Mr. Roh said that "past governments didn't pay enough attention" to the social welfare safety net but that now the country has no choice.

One of the most discussed issues in the National Assembly these days is the need for the government to help parents pay tuition for schoolchildren. Indeed, some people feel this is more important than worrying about where they will sleep, a testimony to the enormous value South Koreans place on education.

In a culture in which workers expect to be employed by the same company for life and the jobless are

thought to be "losers," the emotional impact of being laid off or going bankrupt is tremendous.

Choi Dae Yul, an official of the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, said that unions have fought hard against layoffs because of the suffering displaced workers endure. A union initiative in the coming months, he said, will be to urge that the owners of Korea's biggest companies personally finance monthly paychecks for their laid-off workers.

The chairman of the Samsung conglomerate announced recently that he would sell his personal property and empty some of this bank accounts to put tens of millions of dollars into a workers' welfare fund. Still, his offer was not seen as sufficient.

"In the U.S., when you lose your job, it is different," Mr. Choi said. "There is a welfare system; it is not seen as shame."

"We are trying to tell the IMF this: Korea is not a Western country."

## JAPAN: Parliament Approves Bank Stabilization Package

Continued from Page 11

Mr. Fiorillo said. The new problems are erupting as Japan, Asia's largest economy, faces increasing pressure to revive its stagnant economy to help the region recover from its economic crisis.

Without a greater government stimulus, the parade of bankruptcies and weak consumer spending is expected to continue. Teikoku Danbunka, a credit research agency, said Monday that more than 1,500 bankruptcies were reported last month, a postwar high for January.

"Potential bad loans may be increasing," said Naohito Hasegawa of Nikko Research Center.

Department store sales in Tokyo fell 3.6 percent in January after plummeting 6.2 percent in December. Japanese depositors are pulling their money out of weak institutions in record numbers, according to the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, which reported that sales of home safes were soaring.

The two banking measures passed Monday would allocate \$135 billion to strengthen the deposit insurance fund for deposits. The other law would enable the government to buy \$103 billion of preferred stocks and subordinated bonds to be issued by banks to bolster their capital bases.

In response, Tokyo stock prices closed lower for a third consecutive trading day. The benchmark Nikkei 225-stock index finished at 16,775.52 points, down 15.49 points, or 0.09 percent.

The financial stabilization plan focuses on increasing banks' capital rather than on setting strict requirements for them to account for bad loans and improve profitability, analysts said.

A screening committee including the finance minister and the governor of the Bank of Japan will evaluate preferred-stock proposals submitted by the banks. Sei Nakai, a top banking official in the Finance Ministry, said the committee was scheduled to meet Friday to begin setting criteria for evaluating the applications.

The committee has promised its procedures will be transparent and its criteria objective to avoid charges of corruption, but analysts are skeptical.

"Their priority is preventing bankruptcies," said Yoshihiko Kamata, a Nomura Securities Co. banking analyst. "rather than disclosure. They probably could not afford disclosure in fear of causing too much anxiety."

The two banking measures passed Monday would allocate \$135 billion to strengthen the deposit insurance fund for deposits. The other law would enable the government to buy \$103 billion of preferred stocks and subordinated bonds to be issued by banks to bolster their capital bases.

The new company will consolidate the purchasing of programs but keep two separate delivery technologies. UTV arrives in direct to home cable while IBC is beamed down from a satellite.

Boonklee Plangsiri, group vice chairman of Shinawatra Group, would not say how many jobs might be lost as a result of the merger, but he did say reports that 900 jobs would be cut were exaggerated.

Government regulators have approved the deal in principle, saying the merger will allow for a doubling

up of resources in tough times, fewer baht spent overseas in bidding competition between rival channels and increased investment in locally produced programming.

Orasa Khunawat, director-general of the Mass Communication Organization of Thailand, said that the government approval was granted on condition that the operators increase the amount of local programming.

Thailand's cable companies have kept local content at about 10 percent of total broadcast time. Critics say it is an unrealistic target that could not be sustained for long.

## Top 2 Pay-TV Companies in Thailand to Merge, Dwarfing Competition

By Thomas Crampton  
International Herald Tribune

**BANGKOK** — Thailand's largest pay-television operators agreed Monday to merge, creating a new company that holds an effective monopoly of the nation's cable television industry.

The merger of International Broadcasting Corporation Public Co. and its former rival, UTV Cable Network, Public Co., dwarfs the country's third cable operator and comes as broadcasters face soaring

costs for imported television programs with the fall of the baht.

The deal calls for IBC, a piece of the Shinawatra Group, to buy a stake of UTV, a Telecom Holding Co. subsidiary. Telecom Holding, in turn, will buy into IBC.

It is the highest profile corporate merger to take place since Thailand's economic crisis started in July.

"This is a sensible maneuver," said Soopajit Chearavanh, the chief executive of UTV, who will head the new company. "If we

merge now we can come out with a strategy and with tactics to stay in business through the hard times."

In the period since the crisis began in July, the plug was pulled on a satellite transponder for the country's third pay TV operator, ThaiSat TV, when the company failed to pay its bills.

IBC executives said that the new company, as yet unnamed, will start with a subscriber base of about 300,000, with 60 percent coming from UTV and the remainder from IBC.

Government regulators have approved the deal in principle, saying the merger will allow for a doubling

## INDONESIA: IMF Face-Off

Continued from Page 1

Mr. Suharto, who is 76, is expected to be chosen unopposed for a seventh five-year term in office when an electoral college he effectively controls meets in Jakarta early next month.

The retired army general has built his political authority on stability and economic development. Analysts say that he is desperate to prevent the collapse of his legacy after more than three decades in power.

# MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS: THE THIRD GENERATION

## A REVOLUTION IN THE MAKING

*Third-generation mobile systems are the basis for a truly wireless information society.*

The idea of "any information, anywhere, anytime" is fast becoming a reality. Manufacturers and operators of mobile communications systems and services, along with new global and regional satellite companies, are moving rapidly to provide their subscribers with high-speed access to electronic mail, the Internet and full-motion video as well as to the circuit and packet switching systems, intranets, short messaging and paging services that can make business more efficient and competitive.

Both individuals and corporate users will be able to "roam" the globe, unhampered by the limitations of home networks, while the convergence of mobile and fixed-line telecommunications will help to reduce the cost of equipment and services and improve usage and coverage.

Two important international developments have helped to promote the introduction of wireless multimedia by the turn of the century: agreement by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) in January on a radio-interface standard for the third-generation system, known as Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), and the expansion of existing second-generation systems through "smart," or "intelligent" networks (IN) that improve data transmission speeds and provide access to sophisticated software and customized services. Innovations in the design and manufacture of hand-held sets and terminals are also adding to usability and functionality, making it more likely that mobile phones will become the preferred way to access a range of multimedia services. These developments are geared to allow current GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) systems to evolve toward UMTS.

**Global vision**  
The vision of a common international strategy for the development of third-generation mobile systems has been developed over a three-year period by the GSM MoU Association and other key organizations. Just over a year ago, an open and independent organization, the UMTS Forum, was founded in Zurich, Switzerland by 56 leading manufacturers, operators, regulators and IT companies. This followed the designation in 1992 of the 2 MHz frequency bands that are to be used for the new systems and which will be implemented by the International Telecommunication Union within the International Mobile Telecommunications framework starting in the year 2000 (IMT-2000).

The UMTS Forum aims to combine personal communications with multimedia services and applications built on existing fixed and mobile infrastructures. Working with ETSI, the European Commission and the European Radiocommunication Office, as well as national regulatory bodies, the forum has welcomed the ETSI move, which establishes the UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access, or UTRA, standard for the radio interface in third-generation systems. "We are now taking parallel steps to bring UMTS into service" around the world, says the forum's vice chairman and treasurer, Chris Wilday of Nokia.

Operators working with the existing GSM standard —



used by more than 66 million people — have also welcomed the ETSI agreement, which is designed to ensure a common radio interface for the provision of third-generation services for their 259 networks in Europe, North America, the Middle and Far East. Adriana Nugter, chairman of the GSM MoU Association, which represents the operators as well as regulators, said the association is now moving to ensure that standards for transmission of UTRA are coupled with measures to ensure open standards and open interfaces for the further evolution of GSM.

"We have the leverage to make open standards happen and we are setting the technical requirements," she says.

ETSI and the association have already worked together to promote Customized Applications for Mobile Enhanced Logic (CAMEL), a technology that combines IN with GSM. Several phases are envisaged, but the first, Release 97, should come out in March. It will provide packet switching and fast Internet access across the range of frequencies — 900, 1800 and 1900 MHz — used by GSM operators and will enable the transfer of data links of up to 64 kilobits per second. This is the first of many steps aimed at improving partnerships between GSM operators, which, along with the new technology, can also ensure that roaming subscribers have access to the same level of services as they do on their home networks.

Meanwhile, the installation of new low- and medium-level satellite systems by international consortia such as Iridium, Globalstar and ICO will help to ensure that subscribers in rural and remote areas are not left out. Similarly, the development of advanced digital switching technology, like Lucent Technologies' SESS version, which has been hugely successful in the United States, is helping to integrate mobile systems using different standards across the globe and to promote convergence between mobile and fixed-line networks.

Pamela Ann Smith

## INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mobile operators welcomed the agreement by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) setting the UTRA standard for third-generation mobile systems, but operators of the system most widely used today, the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM), want further moves to ensure that they will be able to provide the most advanced services in a cost-effective way. While UTRA defines the preferred radio interface for transmission, the 256 members of the GSM MoU Association have emphasized that the radio interface should not be burdened with Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) constraints. This would also guarantee open interfaces for the evolved GSM platform. "It is our firm belief that this is an important condition to ensure the successful continuation of the GSM footprint," says the association's chairman, Adriana Nugter. At the ETSI meeting, it was decided to set up a pool of wireless communications manufacturers to discuss IPR — the patents and licenses that cover new developments in infrastructure and handset technology, software and services. This followed the launch of a survey by GSM MoU asking the manufacturers to outline their policies on ownership of IPR. "We feel very strongly that any GSM MoU endorsement of third-generation standards should be conditional on a satisfactory IPR situation," Ms. Nugter says. The aim of the survey is to ensure that IPR is provided in a fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory way. The chairman of ETSI's Special Mobile Group (SMG), Friedhelm Hillebrand, says: "I think everybody wants more assurances regarding IPR. Manufacturers can work together to pool their licensing rights; resolve issues of cross-licensing and set up measures to compensate smaller research organizations that fear losing their proprietary rights in a system of open standards."

P.A.S.

## LAUNCH OF A TRULY GLOBAL STANDARD

*Industry leaders back landmark ETSI decision*

The agreement reached by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) on January 29 on a new radio interface for third-generation mobile systems has been heralded by manufacturers, operators and regulators. It is especially welcome because it will allow a competitive migratory path from the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) standard developed in Europe to the next-generation Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS).

"We are pleased with ETSI's decision to back this open UMTS technology solution, which will facilitate an open global system," the president and CEO of Nokia, Jorma Ollila, says of the decision reached by the Institute's Special Mobile Group (SMG) in Paris. "It will be beneficial to equipment manufacturers, operators and end-users globally. UMTS ensures a secure migratory path for existing GSM operators as it is the most widely used and proven core network technology."

The UMTS Forum — which represents operators, manufacturers, regulators and other organizations from around the world and seeks to promote third-generation technology — was particularly pleased that operator requirements worldwide, including those of Japan and North America, played a significant role in the decision.

The agreement, notes the forum's chairman, Thomas Beijer, indicates that "the competing manufacturers have shown a constructive attitude in reaching a consensus and agreeing to a framework for the next phase of detailed standardization in a spirit of cooperation."

Advisory Chairman Chris Wilday: "We would like to see other countries taking similar steps so we can go ahead with licensing and spectrum allocations, and not just in Europe."

Adriana Nugter, chairman of the GSM MoU Association, which currently represents 256 GSM administrators, regulators and network operators around the globe, adds: "We are very happy with this agreement as it sets out a common working basis to define the UTRA standard and means that we can now move forward. We will continue to input our requirements into the ETSI standardization process."

## Broad consensus

The agreement, which was initiated by the world's leading communications manufacturers, including Alcatel, Ericsson, Nokia, Siemens, Italtel, Fujitsu, Sony, Matsushita, Mitsubishi Electric, NEC, Siemens, Motorola and Nortel, combines the advantages of two advanced technologies — wideband code-division multiple access (W-CDMA) and its time-division variant, TD-CDMA — in a new standard called UTRA (UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access). It will support operation in a spectrum allocation as small as 2 x 5 MHz and should also be designed for broader spectrum allocation to satisfy the capacity and service requirements outlined by the UMTS Forum and the GSM MoU Association, ETSI officials say.

NTT DoCoMo, the leading Japanese cellular network operator, participated in the meeting and also welcomed the solution reached, as did a host of other leading mobile communications and equipment companies such as Cetel, France Telecom, CSEM/Pro Telecom, Deutsche Telekom, Mannesmann Mobilfunk, Samsung, Telia, T-Mobile, Telecom, Finland, Cellnet, Vodafone, Telecom Italia Mobile (TIM), Analog Devices and Texas Instruments.

## The road ahead

The next stage will involve the further refinement of the radio transmission details for UTRA, said the chairman of ETSI SMG, Friedhelm Hillebrand, in mid-February during a trip to Japan to coordinate research and procedures with NTT DoCoMo, NEC and other Japanese companies with interests in third-generation systems.

ETSI must now "provide the specifications for services and resolve the network aspects," he noted, "especially in terms of the bridging and base station network." Current plans call for the work to be completed by the end of June.

ETSI's swift agreement on the UTRA standard, despite the conflicting interests of manufacturers, will help speed the arrival of the new third-generation systems, now due to be introduced by the year 2001 in Japan, 2002 in Europe and later in the United States. It marks a major advance in combining wireless systems and multimedia, not least because it will allow high-speed data transmissions at rates of up to 2 megabits of information per second. The second-generation GSM systems in use today allow a maximum transmission speed of 64 kilobits per second; in the next year, further enhancements are foreseen.

As a result of this move, European and Japanese companies will be firmly positioned to compete within the International Telecommunication Union's third-generation International Mobile Telecommunications 2000 (IMT-2000) framework, which defines a new radio interface in the 2 GHz band. End-users around the world will then be able to benefit from a consistent quality of service and coverage for voice, data, graphic and video-based information, independent of their own home access network.

P.A.S.

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## GSM WORLD CONGRESS OPENS TODAY

"Innovating for National and Global Leadership" is the theme of the 12th annual GSM World Congress, which opens today in Cannes and runs through Feb. 19.

Organizers expect more than 3,000 delegates from 75 countries. More than 170 international speakers and panelists, including operators from 31 countries, will discuss technical issues and business strategy. An exhibition area will feature 130 companies and 18 interactive panels with 82 industry experts. Highlighting the conference will be an opening panel discussion involving some of the leading figures in mobile telephony: Kurt Hellström, president, Ericsson Radio Systems; Don Warkentin, president, Aerial Communications; Adriana Nugter, chairman, GSM MoU Association; Matti Alahuhta, president, Nokia Telecommunications; Matti Makkonen, executive vice president, mobile, Telecom Finland; and Vito Garberale, CEO, Telecom Italia Mobile. Issues to be addressed over the course of the three days include marketing, cost control, data transmission, innovations in handsets and networks, emerging technology trends, integration and substitution with fixed line networks, and more. Two key topics will be the next generation of GSM and multimedia applications, both part of the larger issue of standards for GSM mobile telephony in the future. Although the conference will not set standards, it will provide a lively forum for discussion of the subject. The impact of the Internet is also a subplot of formal presentations, and a new research report by Ovum, "Mobile Internet and Intranets," will be available free to all conference delegates.

GSM MoU Association on the Web: [www.gsmworld.com](http://www.gsmworld.com)  
ETSI on the Web: [www.etsi.fr](http://www.etsi.fr)  
UMTS Forum on the Web: [www.ums-forum.org](http://www.ums-forum.org)

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## MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS: THE THIRD GENERATION

### TECH-SAVVY CONSUMERS WANT SMART PHONES

New handsets take on the mobile multimedia challenge.

**A**t the beginning of mobile telephony, the selling point for a cellular phone was simply its mobility. Today, with more than 158 million cellular users worldwide, mobile operators must offer innovative services to distinguish themselves from their competitors and increase both customer loyalty and air-time usage.

Multimedia features—the addition of data, audio and video to voice communications—may be the “killer applications” that will accomplish these objectives.

Better connectivity for laptop and PDA users, as well as information services delivered right to the phone screen, represent the largest service growth potential for established networks,” says Petri Pöyhönen, vice president, wireless data systems, Nokia Telecommunications. “Being first to market with wireless data solutions will make it possible for an operator to sustain a significant competitive edge over later market entrants.”

Today, industry analysts estimate that less than 5 percent of traffic over GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) cellular phone lines is data. One reason was technological: in the past, GSM generally had a data rate limited to 9.6 kilobits per second (kbit/s), and multimedia applications are notoriously bandwidth-hungry. However, the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and GSM operators have addressed this problem by the development of General

Packet Radio Service (GPRS), which allows the transmission of data traffic at speeds of up to 64 kbit/s, a sufficient speed for sending and receiving e-mail and allowing access to the Internet.

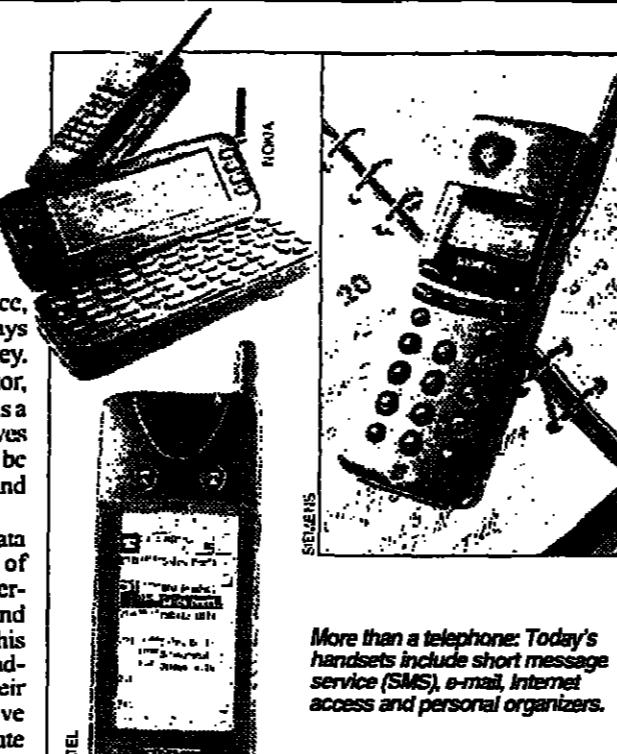
Another obstacle is practical: ease of use and functionality. Telephone keypads are too small to execute complex commands, and a tolerably sized telephone screen is not large enough for some multimedia displays.

A third stumbling block is the very speed with which the mobile data market is moving: what will the telephone of the year 2000 look like? Will the killer applications be delivered over a hyper-powered telephone, like the Alcatel One Touch Com, or a telephone-cum-computer, like the Nokia 9000i, which includes a GSM phone, short message service (SMS), e-mail, access corporate databases and view moving videos by the year 2000. Two-thirds of these tech-savvy consumers believe that Internet access will be available with their phones, and more than a third await financial information over their handsets.

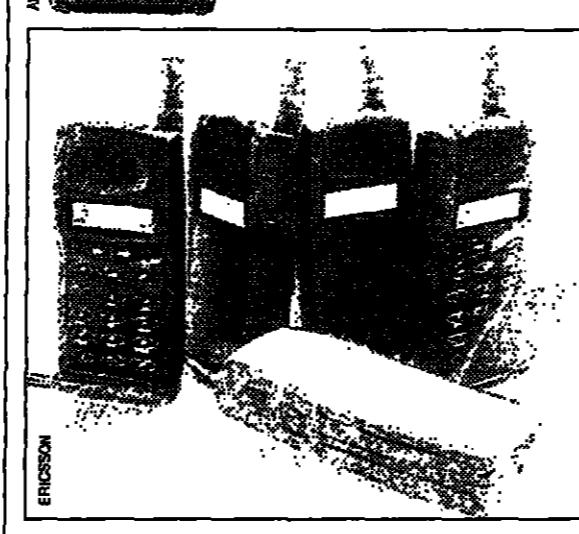
The way to accomplish these tasks without transforming a handset into an undersized PC is by putting much of the intelligence on the network. Philip Terrell, global business manager for Nortel’s new Java-based Orbitor mobile phone, emphasizes that the Orbitor was designed as “a network telephone, because it is always using the network.”

Due to be launched this spring, it features a touch-sensitive screen that can both display information and convert to a “keypad” to access services. It will allow users to be “on-line” at all times and will alert them to incoming e-mail or customized information such as stock prices, weather reports or football scores.

Claudia Flisi



More than a telephone: Today's handsets include short message service (SMS), e-mail, Internet access and personal organizers.



ERIKSON

### INTELLIGENT NETWORKS: GETTING UP TO SPEED

IN and CAMEL provide fast data rates and customized services.

**W**hile voice messages dominate mobile communications today, future growth is expected to be dominated by rising data traffic, especially as the demand by end-users for multimedia services grows. This is creating pressure on operators to install “smart” or “intelligent” networks (IN) that can handle sophisticated technology, software and customized services. End-user demand for “roaming” while traveling away from home networks is adding to this pressure, as is the increasing move toward dual-band, rather than single-band, markets. GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) operators, who are expected to have some 100 million subscribers around the world by the end of this year, began combining their efforts to add the benefits of IN to their networks in the mid-1990s. Last February, they produced their first set of pan-European standards, known as CAMEL (Customized Applications for Mobile Enhanced Logic).

The latest agreement on CAMEL, Release 97, is due to be announced in March, says Friedhelm Hillebrand, chairman of the Special Mobile Group (SMG) at the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). It will feature General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) and allow efficient and fast Internet access across the widely used GSM 900 and DCS-1800 frequencies, as well as the GSM 1900 frequency in the United States.

“The main work ahead is to refine and further elevate GSM,” adds Mr. Hillebrand, noting that discussions on Release 98 have already begun.

Says Alan Lewis, a corporate communications representative for Nortel: “IN technology plays a vital part in creating and delivering services across mixed environments; particularly in evolving services that will help fixed and mobile operators differentiate themselves and compete against others in the marketplace.”

Eric Tholome, Nortel’s Paris-based specialist in IN and CAMEL, who has helped develop the Canadian company’s Service-builder system, says it includes “the entire IN solution”—service control, management, an environment to create new services and a tool to provision service orders. In addition, it provides for intelligent peripherals that can interact with the end-user, enabling operators to provide enhancements such as voice recognition and noise recording.

“CAMEL,” Mr. Tholome says, “allows the IN platform to retrieve the subscribers’ status and location at any time.” GSM operators can also bridge the gap between IN and short messaging to provide sponsored calls directed at specific market segments, such as

teenagers who can be charged lower fees for calls in return for listening to advertiser promotions. “We are making this available now to all our GSM IN customers,” he adds.

“If you look at the development of smart phones, the key is not just the terminal, but the services you can provide,” says Steve Bell, director of global products for Motorola of the United States, the world’s largest manufacturer of mobile telephone equipment. “We’re beginning to forge relationships with people who develop services. That’s a key issue for development.” He adds: “Like the Internet, you get a rapid explosion as soon as these services develop.”

As a result, IN’s emphasis is changing from technology to the market, says Barry Flanigan, a consultant for London-based consultants Ovum. The market for three key IN services—freephone, premium rate calls and virtual private networks (VPN) will grow to over \$33 billion a year by 2003, Ovum estimates.

Revenue from usage of IN services by mobile customers will also grow rapidly,” says Mr. Flanigan. “By 2003, it will be approaching the level of residential customers.”

In Ovum’s view, mobile operators, like fixed-line operators, can benefit from “the rapid roll-out of services, a degree of vendor independence and low-cost service implementation” through an increasing application of IN.

In addition, they will benefit from easier mobility management, reduced fraud, interoperability with fixed networks, the delivery of enhanced services to roaming subscribers and the development of location-based services, whose features are determined by the location of the mobile subscriber.

Significantly, however, Mr. Flanigan notes that the successful extension of IN to mobile operators will depend on the provision of open interface products that allow operators to “interwork between the products” offered by vendors, the provision of low-cost IN options—such as service nodes, leasing and/or revenue sharing—by equipment and software providers and infrastructure manufacturers and suppliers, and by the development of partnerships with other equipment suppliers, so that the partners can capitalize on each other’s expertise and client base.

As the deployment of IN- and CAMEL-based services accelerates, the rapid evolution of standards will be essential if IN is not to be overtaken by alternative technologies. Release 98 will need to take this into account, moving from expensive, proprietary platforms to more open, flexible platforms such as those used in the computing industry, Ovum concludes.

P.A.S.

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### THE SKY’S THE LIMIT FOR SATELLITE NETWORKS

Satellite services are coming to a mobile phone near you.

**I**nformation superhighways may be today’s buzzword, but the supporters of satellite-based telecommunications systems know that it is already out of date now that the skies can provide unlimited transmission networks that are both global and universally accessible, especially when linked to small mobile hand-held phones as well as to computers and TVs.

Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) promises to deliver the once-elusive concept of “any information, anywhere, anytime,” and will play a key role in the new Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS). Industry analysts estimate that there are about 30 million potential customers around the world for the new satellite-based mobile telephone systems about to be marketed by a number of international consortia, including Iridium, launched by Motorola; ICO Global Communications, founded by Inmarsat; and Globalstar, led by Loral and Qualcomm.

This is due in large part to the fact that the new satellite systems will provide links to the 66 million people around the world who use the GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) digital standard for mobile phones and to the hundreds of terrestrial networks operated by GSM members. Although existing satellite networks have been used primarily for the transmission of television signals and by international telecommunications organizations, as well as for military purposes, their positioning in geostationary orbits some 36,000 kilometers above the earth’s surface has limited the number of users per unit area and kept costs relatively high. The newer satellite systems use medium-earth orbits (MEO) or low-earth orbits (LEO) with

flight paths 400 to 12,000 kilometers above the earth’s surface. This allows each satellite to provide stronger signals with less time delay and less echo. Costs are lowered for both operators and end-users, who will also benefit from the ability to “roam” easily from one satellite footprint to another. And, in addition to current GSM roaming capabilities, satellite networks will allow GSM customers enhanced global roaming. The signals can also be received on much smaller receivers, such as mobile handsets and portable satellite telephones, eliminating the need for satellite dishes and extra decoding equipment. This will facilitate their use by personal subscribers, who will benefit from both up- and downlinks, making interactive, multimedia access from mobile phones a cost-effective reality.

Iridium is expected to be the first off the mark with the launch of its “constellation” of 66 LEO satellites spanning the globe. Services are due to be introduced later this year through five “gateways” that will combine Iridium’s worldwide reach with land-based wireless systems. Australia gave Iridium a license for its spectrum last June and is now expected to be one of the five gateways as traffic builds up.

“When the service is up and running, Iridium will be able to provide a dial tone to every square inch on Earth, and each user will have a single number, a single bill and a single contract,” says the minister for communications and the arts in Canberra, Richard Alston. “These services,” he adds, “will allow all Australians, especially those in regional and rural areas, to maintain contact with the rest of the world using hand-held phones, irrespective of whether they’re standing still in Alice Springs, skateboarding down St. Kilda pier or driving across the Nullarbor.” P.A.S.

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# Herald Tribune

# INTERNATIONAL

# WINTER OLYMPICS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1998



Katja Seizinger flying toward the lead Monday in the combined downhill.

## Modern Twist To Jansen's Olympic Fairy Tale

By Mike Kupper  
*Los Angeles Times Services*

NAGANO, Japan — It was the golden moment of the golden Lillehammer Olympics. Hard-luck speed skater Dan Jansen of the United States, probably the best sprinter in the world, had finally won a gold medal, in the last Olympic race he would ever skate. He had just missed as a youngster at Sarajevo, finishing a surprising fourth in the 500. He had missed twice four years later in Calgary, falling in the 500 only hours after learning that his sister, Jane, had died of leukemia, then four days later, just before leaving for her funeral, falling again in the 1,000. He had missed yet again four years after that at Albertville, inexplicably hesitating in the final turn of the 500, then, his confidence shot, finishing 26th in the 1,000. At the upside-down Viking ship rink in Hamar, Norway, he had already missed in the 500, slipping in the last turn and finishing eighth.

So when he won the 1,000 in world-record time, knowledgeable and sympathetic Norwegian fans nearly blew the roof off the hall. Jansen, almost overcome with emotion, sang the words to the U.S. national anthem, then skated over to his wife, Robin, plucked their baby daughter, Jane, from her arms and skated the infant around the rink in a victory lap.

Heartwarming? The word was coined for that scene.

Jansen is in Nagano for these Olympics, doing speed skating commentary for CBS, the U.S. television network, and Sunday, before the men's 1,000, he couldn't help but think of all that happened four years ago.

"Actually, I've been thinking about it for a few days," he said. "It brings back so many memories. Every memory is good, but it's funny to think about it, the days leading up to it and what was going through my mind. The time between the 500 and this race was a very long three days."

Jansen does motivational speaking these days, among other things, and says he tells the story often.

"I do think about it and relive it a lot," he said.

And daughter Jane, now 4½?

Jansen said she had seen the video so often that "she thinks she remembers being there."

It seemed a perfect ending to six years of anguish, and Robin said as much at the time: "Our saga started back in Calgary when Dan lost his sister, Jane. The saga ended today, and we wanted it to end with the new Jane in our lives."

And they all lived happily ever after?

Would life be so tidy?

Jansen still lives in Milwaukee, where he grew up and learned to skate. Robin and Jane live in North Carolina.

The Jansens were divorced about a year ago.

## Seizinger Repeats as Downhill Champion

Sweden's Pernilla Wiberg and Florence Masnada of France Join the German on Podium

By Harvey Araton  
*New York Times Service*

HAKUBA, Japan — Katja Seizinger of Germany affirmed her status as the world's pre-eminent female skier by winning the women's downhill gold medal Monday in a sizzling one minute, 28.49 seconds and becoming the first downhill racer to repeat as Olympic champion.

She was 0.29 seconds faster than Pernilla Wiberg of Sweden, who won the silver. Florence Masnada of France won the bronze, with Picabo Street of the United States following her stunning gold-medal performance in last week's super-G with a sixth-place finish, 0.65 seconds behind the German winner.

A couple of hours later, Seizinger also posted the fastest time (1:28.52) in the downhill portion of the combined event, with Wiberg again in second (1:28.86). Renate Goetschl of Austria, who had crashed in the morning, was third in 1:29.34. The two slalom races of the combined are scheduled for Tuesday.

With the course bumpy and unfamiliar, Street admitted that while she had her trademark tiger on her helmet, she did not have one in her heart. When she could not find the line that perfectly suited her, she decided to ski what for her was a conservative race in what could have been her last race at the Olympics. She did not enter the combined downhill.

"I've hit too many fences this year," said Street, 26. "I didn't want to push the envelope. To me, it wasn't worth risking my health to win another medal."

This was a day for the Europeans to assert themselves just when it seemed the Nagano Games were turning into

their worst nightmare. The 26-year-old Seizinger — the overall World Cup leader and winner in four of six downhills this season — admitted having to fight her frustration these last few days, after failing to win a medal in the super-G and having to wait through the postponed Saturday of her specialty.

"It is nothing against the Japanese people, just the weather," she said.

### ALPINE SKIING

"But I have been a bit angry, you know, because the Olympics come along once every four years, and you hate to see this happen."

In her ninth season on the World Cup circuit, Seizinger is the daughter of a steel mill executive. Her rise to the top of the circuit — she is third on the career victory list, with 36, behind Annemarie Moser Proell of Austria (62) and Vreni

Schneider of Switzerland (55) — is considered an enormous achievement for one who did not grow up in the mountains. Born in Ruhr, in Western Germany, she learned to ski from age 3 during vacations in the French Alps.

Seizinger drew the No. 5 bib. She was the only racer under 1:29. Then Goetschl fell.

There was a short delay before the race resumed, and Street, up after Hilde Gerg of Germany, said that was enough time to put that shred of doubt in her mind.

Seizinger knew she could not breathe easily until the 15th skier, Wiberg, was down without catching her. "I knew that Pernilla was going to be the toughest of the others," she said.

Wiberg, like Seizinger one of the most versatile skiers on the tour, posted her best time of an injury-filled year.

She has broken her ribs and injured

both knees. But Seizinger knew Wiberg had been rounding into form, so she waited, unsmiling, behind the finish line.

When Wiberg was down, Seizinger's skis went up in the air.

After winning the super-G, Street said she was thriving on the chaotic conditions at these Olympics, and that they were probably more detrimental to the Europeans, who were used to operating in their own territory.

"Here, the playing field is even," said Street, who won the silver medal in this event at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer, Norway. "I don't think the Europeans like skiing in Japan."

Seizinger confirmed that, but on this day, the sky was bright and the sun burst through the early-morning clouds.

Seizinger roared down the mountain, leaving the rest of the field behind and order on the women's slopes restored.

## MAIER: Austrian 'Herminator' Recovers From Fall to Take Gold

Continued from Page 1

turned foul again in Hakuba, postponing the start of the super-G on two occasions, he was fortunate again.

"Every day the race was delayed gave me more time to heal," Maier said. "I just missed one day of training, and today, my knee was all right."

And after doing a thorough inspection of the course Monday, he went to the top of the mountain to wait for his second chance. The skiers have been waiting since they arrived in the resort of Happo-one as snow, fog and rain have plagued daily games with their schedule.

Monday, fog delayed the race for approximately 40 minutes. "It was beginning to get on my nerves," Maier said.

But when the fog finally thinned enough, Jean-Luc Cretier of France, the Olympic downhill champion, launched himself down the course.

Maier started eighth. The time to beat was Knauss's 1:35.43, and Maier, sorrier and wiser after his spectacular fall, did not throw caution to the breeze. His first two intermediate times were not even among the day's five best, but by the midway point, he had resumed searching for the most direct line possible.

At the third checkpoint, he was nearly three-tenths of a second ahead of Knauss. When he reached the bottom and saw his commanding lead flash on the scoreboard, he put both fists to his helmet and looked skyward into the patches of blue.

"I saw Cretier drift into some gates," he said. "And so I told myself at the top: 'Be cool. Use your head.' I only attacked like I usually do at the bottom."

The man who has dominated the World Cup circuit and all but clinched Austria's first overall title since Schranz in 1970 now has a gold medal to add color to his already colorful life story.

"I was surprised by what he did today, but he's so tremendously strong," said Tommy Moe, an American who finished eighth, one spot behind his teammate Daron Rahlves. "He's like a machine. You can see when he's inspecting. He's just so crazy-eyed. He's a wild man. He looks like he's a barbarian who just got back from the woods of Austria."

Monday, the barbarian went past the gate instead of crashing through it.

## 1,500-Meter Record Stuns Holland's Timmer

By Amy Shipley  
*Washington Post Service*

NAGANO, Japan — Peter Mueller, the coach of the Dutch speed skater Marianne Timmer, grew so excited about her world record performance in the 1,500 meters Monday that he bounded out to the ice and, in an attempt either to lift or embrace his skater, ended up tackling her. It was obvious that Timmer didn't mind. It wasn't clear that she even noticed.

She wore a look of incredulity from the moment she glanced up to the scoreboard for the 1:57.58 result — 2.5 seconds faster than her personal best in the 1,500 and 0.29 better than the world mark. The disbelief remained even after she jumped up to the podium to collect her Olympic gold.

The Canadian speed skater Kevin Overland, who won the bronze in the 500 meters last week, said, "I think you all saw the expression of 'Wow' on her face."

Overland had the closest view of Timmer's expression. For 15 months, he and Timmer have been dating, and he

gave her a second embrace — considerably gender than the one she got from Mueller. About the knockout, Mueller said, "That was one of my old football moves."

Timmer, 23, accepted all well wishes without discrimination. She, after all, was not expecting to be in this position.

### SPEED SKATING

She entered the race hoping to finish between third and sixth. She had never won a 1,500-meter race and didn't figure to break the trend now.

"Clearly, there was only one possible reaction: 'Wow,'" said a competitor. Gunda Niemann-Stirnemann. "It was a crazy time, an amazing time, a fantastic time. I didn't expect her to win the gold medal."

While Niemann-Stirnemann, who finished second, couldn't top the mark, the former world record holder, Catriona LeMay-Doan of Canada, couldn't crack the top 10. She started too fast and faded to 13th. Another favorite, Austria's Emane Hunyady, paired with LeMay-Doan, finished fourth.

Like Timmer, Chris Witty of the United States expressed surprise after her third-place performance. Witty considers the 1,000 meters, to be contested Thursday, her best race. She began competing in the 1,500 only to improve her times in the 1,000.

This is Timmer's first Olympic Games. She was raised on her parents' small sheep farm in Sappemeer, and she lists working on the farm as one of her hobbies. Her parents sat in the stands with Overland, watching as 11 skaters competed after Timmer.

"It took a few years off their lives to have to watch the rest of the races," Overland said. "But I reassured them that nobody had that kind of speed today."

Overland figured that his bronze-medal performance last week proved inspirational. Overland had expected to be rooting hard for two athletes Monday, but his sister Cindy dropped out of the race because of the flu.

Timmer won the 1997 world championships in the 1,000 meters, making her a strong favorite Thursday. "Now, I have a really good feeling about the 1,000," she said. "And I go for it, too."

## Relay Teams Drop Feuds to Win Medals

By Nessa Starcovic  
*The Associated Press*

HAKUBA, Japan — Bitter rivalries and personal feuds were put aside Monday in the women's 20-kilometer cross-country relay.

Yelena Vaelbe helped her Russian

teammate Larissa Lazutina win her third Olympic gold medal, and Manuela

### CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

Di Centa embraced Stefania Belmondo after her spectacular finish clinched Italy's bronze.

Racing the third leg, Vaelbe turned a one-second deficit into a 22.8-second lead when she tagged Lazutina. Lazutina finished the job and cruised home carrying a Russian flag to give her powerful team the gold medal.

Norway came in second and Belmondo completed an amazing comeback for the Italian team by winning the bronze.

It was the fourth gold medal for Russia in as many women's cross-country events, the third for Lazutina, and the second for Olga Diamlova, who raced the second leg. Russia has not lost a relay since 1989.

Lazutina and Vaelbe were both on the victorious teams in 1992 in Albertville, France, and 1994 in Lillehammer, Norway.

Lazutina, who always felt Vaelbe received preferential treatment in a talented team, began training on her own last year.

After the race, Vaelbe said Friday's 30-kilometer event would be the last race of her illustrious career, which has only one blemish: no Olympic individual gold medal. The 29-year-old Russian has three relay wins, plus three bronze medals in Albertville.

Vaelbe, a five-time World Cup champion, gained an unprecedented sweep of five gold medals at last year's world championships. But she was bothered by illness coming into the Olympics and finished only 17th in the opening 15-kilometer event.

Di Centa and Belmondo have never been friends. But they embraced after Belmondo pushed her way through to capture Italy's third straight Olympic relay bronze.

Italy was ninth when Di Centa tagged Belmondo for the final leg.

Belmondo, the 1992 30-kilometer champion, took off at a furious pace.

Coming into the home stretch, she pushed her way past other racers and surged to the finish. Her leg time of 13 minutes, 1 second was 26.6 seconds faster than Lazutina's second-best for the last leg.

Russia finished in 55:13.5, 24.5 seconds ahead of the Norwegian quartet of Bentle Martinsen, Marit Mikkelsplast, Elin Nilssen and Anita Moen Guidon. Italy was 1:39.8 behind.

Women skiers starting the 20-kilometer relay race in Hakuba on Monday. Russia won the gold, Norway finished second and Italy was third.

Australia's main medal hopes in the Olympics, and their elimination was met with stunned silence by Australian fans and officials gathered at the bottom of the jump.

There were several notable casualties and surprises, as many competitors misjudged the speed of their jumps in the rapidly changing conditions. The warm sunshine of the morning gave way to cold, cloudy weather in the afternoon.

The surprise leader was Dmitri Danchinsky of Belarus, with a two-jump total of 249.08 points. Brian Swartley of the United States was second with 247.08 points. Bergouste was fourth with 232.61 points, behind Alexandre Michailov of Russia with 246.21.

In women's qualifying, Xu Nanna of China (182.01) led Alla Tempe of Ukraine (178.46), Veronique Bremer of Canada (174.86) and the World Cup circuit's second-ranked skier, Jacqui Cooper.

Marshall misjudged her landings and finished 14th, two spots out of contention. Cooper took a terrible crash on her second jump. She failed to complete her twist, landed heavily on her side and slammed her head against the hard-packed snow. She eventually walked off under her own power. Australian officials said she suffered a mild concussion.

Bergouste and Swartley took an innovative approach Monday, instead of performing two triple twists or triple somersaults — also known as quads — they did only one.

"I'm going to go for broke on Wednesday," Bergouste said. "We got to shoot for higher than 250."

Cooper and Marshall represented

the 12 men's and women's qualifiers from scratch in the finals, with the preliminary scores thrown out.

"Training was awful," Bergouste said. "The weather was a huge factor. It was really warm in training, then it got cold right at the end. It changed the speed and texture of the snow."

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